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Cannabis gardener jailed for 20 months

A CANNABIS factory worth more than £600,000 was discovered when police swooped on an address in Willenhall, a court heard.

Illegal immigrant Quang Vo was found hiding in the property where there were more than 400 plants in Brereton Road in April.

The 28 year-old admitted being involved in the production of cannabis and was jailed for 20 months.

A total of 404 plants at various stages of growth were found.

On the basis of the number of crops being produced a year the factory was worth more than half-a-million annually. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told on Monday.

Mr Nicholas Burn, prosecuting said it was a 'sophisticated and well organised set up' and was a commercial supply situation.

He said: "When the police raided the premises the defendant was found hiding upstairs."

Vo pleaded guilty on the basis he was a gardener for the enterprise, watering plants on a daily basis and coerced into doing so.

Mr Afrah Rashid, defending, said: "He was destitute and looking for a shelter."

"He came across a group of people who were prepared to provide him shelter and acted more on the basis he acted as a gardener."

Charity title win for pub

A PUB in Walsall has been honoured for its charity fundraising work.

The Longhorn, in Sutton Road, has won the title of best charitable pub for the West Midlands and Wales in the BT Sport Great British Pub Awards.

Rob Willcock, editor of Pubman's Morning Advertiser which organised the awards along with Pub Aid, said: "The Longhorn is a worthy winner."

The pub will go through to pub awards final in London next month.

£2m work starts on emergency water supply pipe

A £2 million scheme to boost emergency water supplies to thousands of homes and businesses in Walsall started on Monday.

Severn Trent Water is installing a two-and-a-half mile-long pipe from Perry Barr Reservoir to Barr Beacon Reservoir.

Bosses say the new pipe will be there for emergencies such as severe droughts.

George Frederick Road, Streetly, has been

closed to drivers, with diversions in place. It will be shut until November 8.

The rest of the work, which will be carried out away from residential areas, is expected to be completed by summer 2014, bosses say.

Severn Trent programme manager John Tuck said: "The new water pipeline will mean that in an emergency situation we can re-route water to make sure that our customers' supply isn't affected. We're working with South Staffordshire Water to carry out this important improvement."

Severn Trent's contractors Morgan Sindall will carry out the work on its behalf.

Mr Tuck added: "The new pipeline will largely be installed away from roads in the area. However, we will need to temporarily close George Frederick Road until early

November. While we work a diversion is in place and residents will always be able to access their homes."

In 2011 about 90 homes in Streetly were submerged in 3ft of water when thousands of litres of water from Barr Beacon Reservoir gushed down through streets, wrecking homes and cars. South Staffordshire Water admitted responsibility.

Student killed in collision with lorry

A STUDENT from Willenhall has been killed in a head-on motorcycle collision in France.

The devastated parents of Louis Harvey have paid tribute to their popular son and said that he loved life.

The 20-year-old died when his Yamaha Fazer motorbike collided with a lorry in the outskirts of Paris on August 1.

He had just finished his first year studying motor-sport engineering at the University of Derby and had intended to spend a month in France over the summer with his university friend Henry Rogerson.

The pair had planned to stay with Mr Rogerson's father and had travelled by Eurostar to Calais the day before the crash.

An inquest was opened last Friday at Smethwick Coroner's Court and revealed the friends had been wearing leathers and helmets as they rode through the Sainte-Maure Circulation Route.

Former Walsall College student Mr Harvey, of Elm Street, overtook another vehicle and crashed. The inquest was adjourned to give the French authorities time to compile a report.

His parents paid tribute to the ex-Pool Hayes Arts and Community School pupil, who dreamed of becoming a Formula One mechanic.

No trains at weekend

THE MAIN Walsall to Rugeley rail line will be closed during the bank holiday weekend to allow work on a multi-million pound upgrade of the signalling system.

Trains will not run on the Chase Line between Tame-bridge Parkway and Rugeley Trent Valley from the Friday to the Monday. Bus services will be used until Tuesday morning which means longer trips. Rail bosses said the work was to improve signalling and increase reliability of journeys.

TRAVELLERS BACK AT SITE

TRAVELLERS have set up an illegal encampment near a school in Walsall for the second time in seven weeks.

Walsall Council officers visited Delves Green common last week to issue a notice requiring a group of 11 caravans and 10 vehicles to leave, and were due to be in court this week to seek a summons to get them moved off.

It comes after around half a dozen caravans settled on the same patch of land opposite Delves Infant and Junior schools, Bell Lane, just under two months ago.

Palfrey councillor Mohammad Nazir said he was shocked a new camp had set up on the same land in such a short space of time.

He said: "I'm surprised they are back there. It is open space for the local people to use and it should not be occupied by caravans."

"I'm sure we will do our best to ask them to leave."

Order

Last month, a group of travellers formed an encampment in Brockhurst Crescent, Delves.

And Walsall Council was forced to get a court order last month to move on nine caravans and a number of vehicles which had moved onto land off Poplar Avenue, Bentley.

The council was also forced to obtain a court order to move on travellers from Broadway West playing fields in June.

The playing fields were

by Lisa O'Brien

already undergoing a £400,000 revamp to allow sports to be held there again.

Council chiefs said the site was cleaned up and there was no substantial damage to the newly-seeded areas.

Fencing that had been put during work to clean up the once-contaminated fields, to allow ball games to return after a decade, had been moved to allow the vehicles on to the land.

Caravans had also moved onto land at Handsworth Rugby Club in Birmingham Road, in June.

Councillors raised concerns over the number of traveller camps setting up in Walsall in a short space of time.

Figures released this year showed that councils spent more than £60,000 moving on travellers in the West Midlands last year.

The largest amount was by Sandwell Council, which paid £55,933 in 2011-12 for site security, legal fees and moving waste. Walsall spent £6,600 on bollards and a special grass mound to stop potential incursions.

Healthy living is key to reaching 100



Irene Boyd's twin sons David and Malcolm toast their mother who is celebrating her 100th birthday

A HEALTHY lifestyle with plenty of exercise has been the elixir of life for a former factory worker who is turning 100.

Irene Boyd, from Walsall has lived through two world wars and is now a great-grandmother.

Born in London, she moved to the West Midlands in her youth and has lived the majority of her life in Walsall, where she worked for Shannon's the tailors. The widow, who lives in Bescot Grange, has 77-year-old twin sons David and Malcolm. A keen gardener,

she also has a large group of friends at the Saddlers Club. Her whole family is coming together for a special meal to celebrate her century.

David said: "Apart from breaking her hip recently she is fully active, doing her own work in the house and the garden and does her own shopping."

"I would say the secret to her long life is quite simple. It is healthy living. She has never smoked or drank and has done plenty of exercise."

He added: "She was always a very gentle mother. She had it tough living

through the wars and with our father being away in India, and has lived as a widow since his death."

But she is always there for everybody else. She made a promise to her mother to keep the family together.

"She has never missed a birthday card or Christmas card. She always looks after everyone else before herself."

"We are going to have a lovely luncheon together and we are all hoping that we too will make it to 100 and that in 10 years time we'll be celebrating her 110th birthday."

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Back garden caravan site rejected

CONTROVERSIAL plans for a gipsy caravan site in the back garden of a home near Blomwich have been rejected by South Staffs Council.

Bill Watton who lives in Long Lane, Newtown, had applied to put three caravans, two belonging to gipsy households, at the rear of his property.

He said the caravans would be

used for his elderly mother and because his son is due to marry next year. But South Staffordshire District Council's regulatory committee voted unanimously to refuse the application.

Mr Watton's proposals had sparked fury with residents along Long Lane, Essington, with 70 flocking to a public meeting to show opposition to the application last month.

A petition containing 132 names was submitted to the council against the application along with 63 letters of objection.

Sufficient

Residents argued that the plans ate into green belt land and there were sufficient gipsy sites nearby.

Councillor David Cliff, who represents Essington, led the fight

against the plans. He said at the meeting: "We already have four traveller caravan sites, two are immediately on the A34 and there does seem to be a saturation of sites in Essington."

"The applicant's family has integrated with the settled community but what we have here is an application that is right in their back garden."

Staff boost at Manor's new critical care unit

AN EXTRA 20 staff will work in a new £6 million intensive care unit being planned for Walsall Manor Hospital.

A total of 110 workers will run the 16-bed ITU at the hospital. A planning application has now been submitted to Walsall Council will bosses hoping to get the scheme under way by next spring, taking around 12 months to complete.

Drink outlets urged not to serve town's street drunks

SUPERMARKETS and off licences will be urged to stop selling beer to persistent street drinkers in Walsall.

The town's Pubwatch wants businesses to help crack down on the problem which they claim is creating a 'bad perception' of the town centre.

They want drinks outlets to agree not to sell booze over six per cent in strength or buy single cans to persistent boozers.

A meeting will be held at Walsall Council House, in Lichfield Street, on August 29 from 10am that businesses have been invited to attend. An initial meeting was held last month but only Tesco and Asda representatives attended.

The move comes after police were given powers to banish drinkers from Walsall town centre streets and part of Caldmore Green for up to 48 hours.

Suky Samra, chairman of Walsall Pubwatch, said: "These street drinkers are a problem, they are a constant menace."

It aims to follow in the footsteps of a successful scheme in Suffolk to stop shops selling super-strength beer and cider, which helped cut crime in Ipswich.

The facility will combine the high dependency and critical care units within the former West Wing, near to the A&E department.

The ground floor refurbishment and extension will include eight single bedrooms and eight bed bays.

Link

A bridged link to the main hospital building forms part of the development.

There are currently 65 full-time staff across the two units, which will increase to 80, according to the submitted plans. The 25 part-time workers will rise to 30 when the unit is created.

Proposals will go before the planning committee, or be considered under delegated powers by officers, within the coming months.

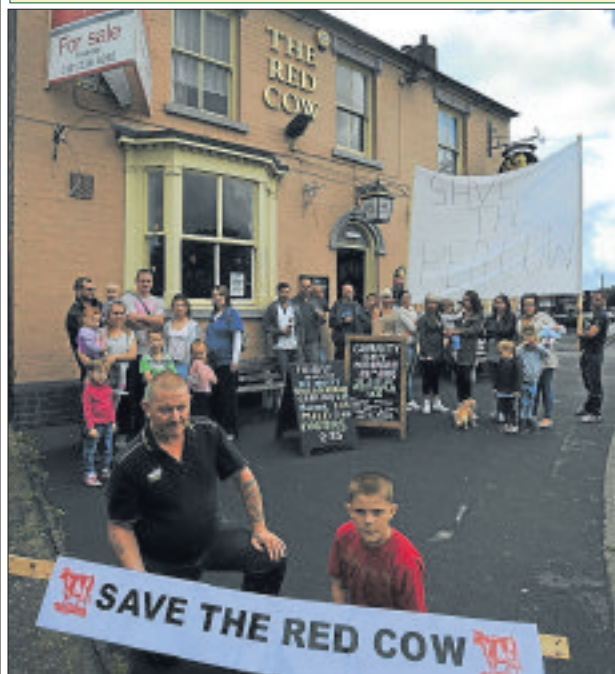
Jayne Tunstall, chief operating officer at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust said: "We are delighted to announce a significant capital investment into new front-line clinical service."

"An Integrated Critical Care Unit will bring together the current Intensive Treatment Unit and the High Dependency Unit on our Manor Hospital site in a state-of-the-art development within the former West Wing Main Entrance."

"I am delighted that patient care will be even further improved for critically ill patients."

It comes after it emerged more than £1m is to be spent on recruiting extra staff and extending A&E this winter. Meanwhile, the Manor and New Cross are discussing running services at Cannock Hospital.

Campaign to save family pub



Landlord Adrian Worley is pictured with his son Keiran and regulars at the Red Cow UP TO 180 people have signed a petition opposing plans to turn one of the oldest pubs in Walsall into a house.

Father-of-two Adrian Worley has managed the Allens Lane pub for 12 months with his wife Julie, but in January the pub was put up for sale by the brewery.

Proposals have now been submitted to Walsall Council by developers planning to turn the Marston's pub into a single home.

But customers have challenged the plans,

saying it is 'a community pub'. Nearly 200 customers have signed the petition urging Walsall Council not to allow the conversion of the pub.

Dawn Stokes, of Avon Crescent, says she has taken her children and grandchildren to make the most of the secure outdoor play area at the pub over the years.

"It's a community pub where everyone meets," said grandmother-of-two Mrs Stokes, aged 47.

Boy theft suspect wore wig and skirt

A 14-year-old boy dressed as a woman was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting by police in Walsall.

The teenager was arrested by officers after the Co-op store in Lichfield Road, New Invention was targeted at around 11.40am on Tuesday of last week.

Another 14-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of burglary and theft.

Both boys have been bailed.

After the arrest, Pc Richard Stanley, of Walsall Police, tweeted: "Checking what happened with the male shoplifter we had who dressed in skirt, pink top and blonde wig to avoid being recognised. Bailed."

"We'll be seizing his wig I reckon, maybe we'll offer him some fashion tips too."

Drugs den – man accused

A CROATIAN man in Britain on a temporary visa has been accused of running a drugs den in Willenhall.

Daniel Mikesic, 34, of no fixed abode, was found with keys to a property in Charles Street where police found 83 cannabis plants, worth more than £150,000, Walsall Magistrates' Court heard.

The defendant, who communicated through a translator, entered no plea and the case was sent to Wolverhampton Crown Court where he must appear on November 5. He was remanded in custody.

Walk right in

VOLUNTEER walk leaders are being sought to ensure people enjoy the great outdoors in Walsall.

The Walsall Walk On programme is looking to find new recruits to help lead the strolls across the borough.

Those interested must have a passion for walking, organisational skills, be punctual, committed and aged 18 and over. Call 01922 658080.

Raid on flat

A BUILDER has been charged with possession of class A drugs following a raid on a Walsall flat.

Satnam Singh, aged 39, of Caldmore Road, will appear before the town's magistrates' court on August 27.

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Trees will be felled so project can move

A £26 MILLION road for Darlaston to open up the Black Country Enterprise Zone to create jobs will take a step forward with tree clearance works scheduled for the end of this month.

Four junctions and two bridges are being upgraded in Darlaston and Pleck as part of the wider scheme.

The project has now reached the stage where trees on Richards Street can be cleared, paving the way for the eventual widening of the junction of Bentley Road South and Heath Road to reduce congestion.

The tree clearance will take place from next Tuesday until September 1. Richards Street will be closed during this period from the junction of Bentley Road South and Heath Road, heading south to the junction with Batchcroft. Diversions will be in place.

The junction of Bentley Road South, Heath Road, Richards Street and The Green will operate using temporary traffic signals which will be manually controlled during peak periods.

Heath Road will have a lane closure.

Walsall Council leader Councillor Mike Bird said: "We're improving the road network so that parcels of land can be unlocked for development."

Help grows in garden

CHARITY open days at an award-winning garden in Walsall raised more than £1,300 and attracted visitors from across the world.

Marie and Tony Newton regularly open the Four Seasons garden at their home in Buchanan Road, to the public to raise money. Their August open days brought in £1,359.50, including £585 for the National Garden Scheme and £774.50 for the Mayor of Walsall's charity appeal.

Among the visitors were students from China and Thailand who found out the internet. The next open days will be on October 26 and 27.

New sport store

NEW sports store chain Sporting Pro is opening a shop in Walsall next month, creating 20 jobs. It will be at Walsall Retail Park, Reedswoods Way.

Town halls see 25pc rise in visitor numbers

Visitor numbers at the two main town halls in Walsall rose by more than 25 per cent after an increase in bookings and events, council chiefs have revealed.

There were an extra 2,000 people who came through the doors of Walsall and Darlaston town halls during a three-month period, compared to the same quarter last year.

Between April and June 2012, a total of 7,963 attended a series of events at the town halls.

This rose to 10,035 in the first three months of the 2013/14 financial year, with leisure bosses highlighting bookings for

improved attendances. A live boxing event packed out Walsall Town Hall, with a further one planned for September.

The venues have also been hired for three wedding celebrations while a leisure and culture hub launched at Darlaston Town Hall in April.

Bosses have looked at the possibility of securing funding for improvements worth up to £500,000 at the main Darlaston building including modernising the kitchen, refurbishing the balcony and improving office and meeting room areas.

It comes after it was last year claimed that event organisers were shunning the venues

for functions, leading to a shortfall in the amount of money raised from hiring out the buildings.

The authority had come £5,000 short of its £67,000 target. Since then, Reverend and the Makers have played at Walsall Town Hall, drawing in 700 people, with £10,000 spent on installing acoustic equipment at the venue ahead of the event.

Leisure councillor Anthony Harris said: "I'm thrilled to see people making use of our town halls for their big celebrations."

"Both Walsall and Darlaston town halls are superb buildings with real history attached to them and there can't be many

other town centre buildings which can hold such a large number of people.

"We are always looking at new ways in which we can use the buildings and the live boxing has proved a real hit, with Walsall Town Hall packed out."

"In response to this we have got more boxing planned for September, which will, I'm sure, again prove a big success."

"In terms of Darlaston we launched the leisure and culture hub in April, which offers a range of activities for people of all ages at the town hall, from kids cheerleading to netball and Active Steps, which is attracting over 100 people every week."

Complaints after families hit by infestation of flies

A FLY infestation has hit Darlaston with thousands of insects causing misery to businesses and residents, who are forced to keep windows and doors shut.

Families claim they have been plagued for the past two months and had to keep fly swatters by beds and on the dinner table to keep the flies away.

Walsall Council has been called in to investigate amid concerns the infestation is coming from the plastics recycling business run by Dharna Polymers in Darlaston Road.

The company said it had taken actions as requested by the council, and the warm weather had attracted an influx of insects.

Residents in Johnson Road and the surrounding Wood Bank area have been affected by the surge in flies. Some have been forced to seal windows and stop sitting outside. Melanie Parton found 500 of them in her home in Johnson Road last week and said the problem had been going on for up to two months.

Aware

The mother-of-five said: "We have had to have all the doors shut around the house."

"I have got asthma and this is detrimental to me. It is unbelievable, we have never experienced anything like this before."

"When you are eating you are having to sit with a fly swatter in your hand and fork in the other."

The council said it has been made aware and been in contact with the business. Councillor Zahid Ali, cabinet member for public health, said: "The council has received complaints from residents concerning flies associated with a plastics recycling operation at Alma Works, Darlaston Road, Darlaston."

"Pollution control officers have visited the company to investigate these concerns. As a result, Dharna Polymers Ltd have responded positively by removing waste material stored on the external yard and



Melanie Parton with some of the 500 flies she found in her Darlaston home after her neighbourhood was hit by a plague of them

engaged the services of a professional; pest control company to eradicate flies that are apparently imported amongst the waste plastic.

"Pollution control officers are currently assessing whether further, formal measures should be taken."

Darlaston South councillor Paul Bott said he had received complaints and met with people living in the area. "We need jobs but not at this price, it is completely unfair on residents who can't sit in their back

gardens," he said. "They are prisoners in their own homes with these flies."

But Saqub Malik, director of Dharna Polymers, said they had been requested to put measures in place and have followed them. This included ensuring plastics were kept inside, 30 fly bags were put close to the factory and shutters remain down.

He said the business implemented a full 100 per cent diversion from landfill and going the step further for the environment as well as creating jobs. "Walsall Council

have asked me to implement procedures to combat flies," he said.

"I have had a professional pest control company and we have done everything we have been asked to do."

"There is no doubt there are flies but I believe they are more confined to the factory than outside. Unfortunately, it is a seasonal thing."

The Environment Agency said Dharna Polymers is exempt from needing an environmental permit.

Charity draw is a winner

FOOTBALL fans at Pelsall Social Club turned fundraisers to boost a charity's coffers by £500. They took part over several weekends, by picking a football team in a prize draw and the winner splitting the proceeds with St Giles Walsall Hospice. Secretary Margaret Dobson said: "It's really popular and we often have in excess of 200 people taking part."

Show hailed a success

WALSALL Town Show which featured trucks, vintage vehicles, steam engines and fair rides has been hailed a success. It has become a yearly event after being relaunched in 2009 by Councillor Anthony Harris, who said: "The wrestlers were a real hit with younger visitors." He will be making a donation to Walsall Manor Hospital's paediatrics unit.

Season to get snapping

THE 37th season of Walsall Wood Camera Club opens on September 3 with member Tim Merrick's digital presentation on his Great American Road Trip. The season includes exhibitions, club and inter-club competitions and practical evenings. It meets at Brownhills Community Association's Activity Centre, Chester Road North, Brownhills.

NEWS in brief

Headshave tribute to tragic brother

A LOVING sister is putting on a charity event and shaving her head to raise money in memory of her brother. Lisa Cunningham's brother, Chris Rudd, lost his battle with cancer and spent the last week of his life at St Giles Hospice, Walsall.

"The staff were absolutely brilliant and I couldn't thank them enough for the care of my brother, so I thought we would raise money for them," said Lisa, aged 44, of Plant Way, Pelsall. "I only thought about shaving my head the other day. I thought, it's a mad idea but it might raise us some more money."

A fancy dress pub crawl will start from the Fingerpost, Pelsall at noon this Sunday. It will end up at Pelsall Labour Club at 7pm. Mr Rudd, 48, lived at Riddings Crescent, Pelsall.

Runner hopes to help good cause

A RUNNER from Walsall is making great strides to raise money for the British Skin Foundation.

Matthew Walker, eldest daughter suffers from a rare skin disease. The 32-year-old's runs have included the Lichfield half marathon and Aldridge 10k. Still in store is the Wolverhampton half marathon, Great North Run, Great Birmingham and Sneyd Christmas pudding run.

"I am hoping to raise as much money as possible to fund research not only into the disease my daughter suffers from, but to improve treatments for the countless other skin diseases that affect the lives of so many," he said. To donate, visit www.justgiving.com/MatthewWalker11

Appeal to find missing family

A WOMAN from Darlaston is tracing family members. Irene Harper is looking for John Morris, who is believed to have lived in Station Street, Bloxwich.

He is thought to have been married to Mrs Harper's sister Barbara. Mrs Harper, née Smith, has not seen her since they were put in care in 1959. Call 01902 319429 with information.

Holiday fun day

A BANK Holiday family fun day with puppet shows and caricatures will take place at Walsall Leather Museum, Littleton Street, from 10am on Monday.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



BORIS Johnson says Britain should show 'the Falklands spirit' in the current spat with Spain over Gibraltar. So how do we do that, Boris? Send a Task Force south and kill another thousand young men?

□□□□□□□□

HERE'S a better idea. Let us accept that the Empire is no more, that these rather odd, union-jack bedecked pimples on the map are an awkward legacy of imperialism and the sooner we get shot of them, the better. Gibraltar and the Falklands were acquired in the days when the ships of the British Empire needed refuelling ports. That role vanished years ago. We no longer need them and they are a hostage to fortune. No Government in Whitehall should be bound for all eternity by the wishes of far-off people to serve fish and chips and wave the union jack. When Margaret Thatcher boldly decided to hand Hong Kong back to China by 1997, she created enormous goodwill between London and Beijing and avoided any chance of a shooting war. Follow Boris Johnson's sabre-rattling and our next war could be fought on two fronts at the same time, in the Falklands and on Gibraltar, possibly with this reckless, mop-haired liability as our prime minister. God help us.

□□□□□□□□

IN my TA days I did two tours of duty with the Gibraltar garrison. I have to report that, for all the chips, pubs, red phone boxes, tattoo parlours and union jacks, Gib felt about as British as Madrid. But a reader disagrees. His verdict is that Gib is "like Walsall with sunshine." The perfect advertising slogan.

□□□□□□□□

IF YOU don't rejoice at the price of gas, food, public transport, electricity and water going up, then for goodness' sake, don't rejoice at the price of houses going up. It's all inflation.

□□□□□□□□

ANDREW Ashworth and I are never going to agree on what to do with serial burglars. Professor Ashworth, a former chairman of the Sentencing Advisory Panel under Tony Blair, says those guilty of what he calls 'pure property offences' involving no threat, violence or sexual assault, should never be jailed but should be fined, given community service and told to pay compensation. My view, as regular readers will be aware, is that serial burglars should be taken into a field and shot. Burglary kills people. Research by the Home Office a few years ago into the after-effects of burglary uncovered a tragic saga of people being terrified for years, forced to quit the family home they loved or even dying early as a result of trauma. Burglars, assisted by their legal-aid lawyers, like to portray themselves as rough diamonds. In reality they are the scum of the earth and probably cause more anguish than paedophiles. If Professor Ashworth's suggestion ever became law, it would be open season on householders by burglars who feared nothing from the courts. If we tried my firing-squad option, there would be a lot less burglary and everyone could sleep soundly at night. Except, of course, for burglars.

□□□□□□□□

ECONOMICS for beginners. After six quarters in the red, the Eurozone manages one quarter in the black and, according to pundits, "the recession is over." Give it a while, shall we?

□□□□□□□□

SCIENTISTS in Michigan killed laboratory rats with an overdose of anaesthetic and noted a surge in their brains' electrical activity just before they died. The boffins believe this may explain the near-death experiences reported by many folk who have almost died and been revived. I once interviewed a road-accident victim who'd had such an experience. He was utterly convinced that what he saw was a glimpse of the afterlife. From that moment, he told me, he lost all fear of death. But we live in a scientific age and if scientists wish to spend a few days killing rats and demolishing a cherished belief in heaven, so be it. Let us hope for their sake that, when we die we do not discover that Heaven and Hell really exist and that the entire selection process for paradise or purgatory is run by dedicated teams of laboratory rats, with a few scores to settle.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Students praised after A-level results see rise

WALSALL Council's education boss have congratulated students across the borough after it emerged those receiving three or more A-levels at grades A* to E had soared by almost 20 per cent this year.

The number of students gaining three A* to E grades was 85.9 per cent, compared with 67 per cent in 2012.

The council said this had increased the chances of young people wanting to progress into higher education and further training.

Councillor Rachel Andrew, Walsall Council's portfolio holder for children's services, said: "I would like to congratulate those schools and individual students who've done so well. You should all be very proud. This is really positive news for Walsall."

The authority said provisional average points scores had improved on the provisional scores last August, but these were expected to change as results go through the normal validation process.

Validated results from the Department for Education will not be available until January, at which point the final performance in Walsall will be ranked against those in other local authorities.

There was extra reason to celebrate at Aldridge School after pupils achieved a 100 per cent pass rate in their A-levels.

Nearly a quarter of the grades achieved were A* or A results.

First

Star student was Vanessa Lyne who netted A*s in biology, chemistry and maths. The 18-year-old, from Aldridge is now off to study chemistry at Durham University. Figures show 100 per cent of students at the Tynings Lane school achieved A* to E grades compared with 98 per cent last year and 96 the year before.

Seventy-one per cent are set to go to their first choice university and the school said it had seen a significant increase in students going on to high quality apprenticeship programmes.

Others celebrating were Chloe Law, who got A* in biology and A grades in chemistry and maths. The 18-year-old is now off to Cardiff University to study optometry. Sam Pickering will study aeronautics at Leeds University after getting As in maths, physics and chemistry.

Maddie Thorn is also off to Leeds University for chemistry after getting A* economics and As in biology and chemistry.

While Jessica Page got A* in biology, As in chemistry and geography and is heading to Birmingham University to study biochemistry. Vanessa Lyne, aged 18, from Forge Lane, Aldridge, got A*s in chemistry,



Successful Black Country UTC students, from left, Robert Bayliss, Rose Wilkins, Will Haynes and Joe Symonds



Star student Vanessa Lyne, left, leads the celebrations at Aldridge School along with Maddie Thorn, Alistair Allen, Hannah Godwin, Chloe Law, Jessica Page and Sam Pickering after its 100 per cent pass rate

biology and maths. "I wasn't expecting it, I was ecstatic. It was a massive relief. I'm going to study chemistry at Durham University."

Alastair Allen, 18, of Burnfield Way, Aldridge, got an A in government and politics and Bs in history and geography and is off to Aberystwyth to study history.

He said: "I was targeted Cs so I'm happy with that."

Headteacher David Mountney said: "We've had an ongoing improvement in our A-levels. We have got more As and A*s than ever before. All but three students have got the places they wanted at universities and the others will find out today."

"We are really pleased as years of hard work have paid off. These are excellent results and we are delighted for the students and their ever-supportive parents."

Queen Mary's Grammar School in Walsall achieved one of its best performances in recent years, with 77 per cent of grades between A* and B. A third of students for three grade

As or better and 14 students achieved four A* or A grades.

Willenhall E-ACT Academy celebrated record success with a 98 per cent pass rate, with 90 per cent achieving three or more passes.

Joseph Leckie Academy had an overall pass rate of 97 per cent and 15 subjects with a 100 per cent pass rate. At Pool Hayes Arts and Community School, Willenhall, the overall pass rate was 96.6 per cent.

Delighted

At St Thomas More Catholic School, Darlaston Lane, Willenhall, the overall pass rate rose from 96 to 99 per cent. The proportion of students achieving at least one A* to C grade increased from 74 per cent to 82 per cent.

Headteacher Peter Mayland, who took over at Easter, said: "I am delighted with these results and must congratulate the 102 A-level students who have worked so hard not just over the last two years but over their school careers."

Shire Oak Academy saw its pass

rate rise to 97 per cent with more pupils getting grades at A* or A.

At Barr Beacon in Old Hall Lane, Aldridge, the pass rate was 99.6 per cent – the best results achieved in the school's history.

The Black Country University Technical College, Walsall celebrated its first set of A-level results. The £9.5 million engineering college for 14- to 19-year-olds opened in place of the former Sneyd Community School in 2011.

Pupils and staff were celebrating after achieving a 100 per cent pass rate in engineering, English, maths and business studies.

Joe Symonds, aged 18, from Sandringham Avenue, Willenhall, got an A in engineering, B in maths and C in physics.

"I was really pleased with my results," he said.

"It was exactly what I wanted, I am one of only 60 candidates from over 6,000 that applied to have secured a higher apprenticeship position at Jaguar Land Rover. It is an amazing opportunity."

Drunken lout jailed for abuse in store

A LOUT has been jailed for two years, four months after persistently hurling vile abuse at people when drunk.

Christopher Hatton launched a verbal tirade against a 25-year-old man behind the counter at a convenience store in Cross Street, Willenhall, hours after being freed from prison where he had been locked up for a carbon copy offence, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last Tuesday.

Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, said: "The outburst came when the 53-year-old was asked to leave because the staff felt intimidated by him."

Police were called and the defendant tried to head butt one of the officers when they approached him at a nearby bus stop and threatened to 'do' them while being forcibly restrained.

This was the seventh time he had broken the rules of a three-year Anti Social Behaviour Order imposed that ordered him not to use threatening words and behaviour in public.

Mr Mohammed Riaz, defending, said: "This case does not make good reading but he is a different man when not in drink."

Hatton, of Victoria Road, Wednesfield, admitted racial harassment, breaking the terms of the order, resisting arrest and breaching a community order on March 19.

Titanic talk library date

A PRESENTATION on the history of the Titanic will be held in Bloxwich on Saturday.

The illustrated talk, Titanic – the Return of a Dream, will be by expert and historian Andrew Lound at Bookmark Bloxwich Theatre, Elmore Row.

Stuart Williams, vice chairman of Bloxwich Library Forum, said: "This is the Titanic story like you have never heard it before." Doors open at 1.30pm for 2pm start. Admission is £2.

Hilly rambling

THE Walsall group of the Ramblers will be heading to Church Stretton for a six-mile, circular walk on Sunday. This is a hilly walk to the east of Caer Caradoc taking in Helmheth, Wilstone and Hope Bowdler Hills. Non members should contact the walk leaders for on 01922 477383 or 01922 627371.

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Car park's price cut is a 'reward' for loyalty

BOSSES of a major Walsall shopping centre say they slashed parking fees to 'reward loyal customers'.

Visitors to the Saddlers Shopping Centre, in Park Street, can now benefit from reduced charges at its car park. It is hoped the move by new owners Topland will also encourage more footfall in the shopping centre.

The centre has slashed its all-day fee of £6.50 to £3.50 for drivers who park for three hours or more.

Extra short-stay bands have also come into force and free Sunday spaces are due to be introduced this month.

It comes after a £400,000 investment in revamping the near 450-space car park was carried out last year.

Easier

Steve Pope, director of retail property, said: "We wanted to reward our loyal customers, who have been parking at the Saddlers Centre for over 30 years.

"Parking at the Saddlers Centre is easier than ever and costs less. We pride ourselves on listening to our customers in this current economic climate," when every penny counts.

It now costs 50p for up to 30 minutes, £1 for up to an hour and £1.50 for an hour-and-a-half. This is instead of a fixed £1.50 cost for anything up to two hours.

There is an increase of 50p to £2 for two hours but this is offset by rising hourly fees between four and seven hours being removed. This includes the £4.50 rate for four to five-hour stays and £5.50 for five to six hours being scrapped.

It comes after the main shopping centre announced plans for a student lock-in next month. The aim is to draw the town's 5,000 students to the town rather than Birmingham by offering extended opening hours in the evening.

Private operators NCP reduced its prices to £3 a day and free parking on Sundays last year, while the council has also cut fees at its bays.

Transport chiefs have said the number of drivers parking in council-run car parks has almost doubled in six months since the price cuts. Long-stay daily charges were cut from £5 to £3 in January in a bid to draw in more users.

The move has seen 18,241 tickets for all day parking sold in the first six months of the year compared to 9,475 last year.

Cost of saving regeneration scheme is kept secret

CALLS have been made for a public meeting into multi-million pound plans to transform derelict land for regeneration in Walsall.

It comes after it was decided the cost of the Phoenix 10 project should not be debated in public. This was on the advice of council officers who believe it could prejudice the tender process for work to clean up the heavily contaminated site, on the Pleck and Darlaston border.

The opposition Labour group, which had called for the scheme to be discussed in public, said 'legal constraints' meant the

full finances were not debated. But there were calls for residents to be kept involved.

Pleck councillor Dennis Anson, speaking at a meeting of Walsall's full council last week, said: "There are 10,000 people in Pleck and I have a right to speak on their behalf. We must have a full public meeting."

Councillor Pete Smith added: "We have voted to keep these figures in private, we accept our officer advice on that. But there should be public meetings for the residents."

Labour leader Tim Oliver said the report

was not what was requested and residents had a right to know what was happening, especially with the i54 site in Wolverhampton pushing ahead.

But he said they were in support of Phoenix 10 which was a 'one-off opportunity' to bring skilled, well-paid jobs to the area.

"The path which has been followed since 2010 has come off the rails. We are having to see this scheme rescued in the public sector," he said.

"We are already behind schedule and we

need to be clear things are moving forward."

Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew said there were a number of other councils and bodies with an interest in the scheme. He insisted the support of residents in the scheme was important.

"We have nothing to hide at all, there is no party politics involved," he said. "It is essential with a project like this that the residents are taken along with it and not against it."

Labour deputy leader Sean Coughlan, said figures had clearly 'spiralled' from those that were first given out.

Son cheated mother, 90, over ownership of home

A HEARTLESS trickster and his wife 'stole' the home of his 90-year-old mother by forging her signature, a judge heard at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

by John Scott

The faked document was used to make it look like ownership of the former council house in Walsall had been transferred to Robert and Janice Cheetham.

The scheming couple's shameless scam was not discovered until four years later, in 2011, when the address of Robert's mother Lillian was used to make a false claim for housing benefit – in which a fake tenancy agreement was created to make it look like the couple were lodgers.

Shocked

The application was turned down by Walsall Council who sent the rejection letter to Mrs Lillian Cheetham.

She was so shocked to discover details that she ordered her solicitors to change the will, so she no longer bequeathed the house to Robert and his wife.

The lawyers were told to alter the details so that the property was left to other members of her family.

While doing this they discovered that it had been illegally transferred to Robert and Janice Cheetham on February 28, 2007, revealed prosecutor Mrs Sati Ruck.

Janice Cheetham, aged 56, and her 59-year-old husband, both of Nest Common, Walsall, and of previous good character, admitted conspiracy to commit fraud and forgery.

Mr Delroy Henry, defending Janice Cheetham, claimed the couple had spent time caring for her mother-in-law and said his client was now in danger of losing her job in an NHS finance department.

Mr Nicholas Berry, representing Robert Cheetham, conceded: "It was a gross breach of trust that he bitterly regrets."

Both received eight month jail sentences suspended for two years with each being ordered to do 200 hours of unpaid work.

Bin policy review call

CALLS have been made for Walsall's bins policy to be reviewed following complaints about residents being billed when they move into new homes.

People living in Walsall are charged for replacement bins and people moving in to new-built homes must also pay for the brown, green and grey bins.

It has also been claimed it is not clear in the policy guidelines who is responsible for providing them, although the authority says it is not up to them to supply containers for first-time buyers.

Walsall Council has already come under fire after a zero-tolerance recycling crackdown saw 'inspectors' checking bins for the wrong rubbish, with those which are contaminated going uncollected.

The local authority has agreed to make its policy clearer to avoid any confusion.

Praise for laughter of contented children



Manager Pauline Bird, second from left, with youngsters and staff from 'outstanding' Brownhills Children's Centre

STAFF and youngsters at a playgroup in Brownhills are celebrating after being awarded an outstanding grade from Ofsted inspectors.

An inspection reviewing early years provision was carried out at Brownhills Children's Centre, in Great Charles Street, in June. Inspector Becky Johnson spoke to children, staff and parents and looked at records.

In a recently published report, it said there was a 'highly effective' and 'supportive' management team and children made 'excellent progress' in line with their starting points and capabilities.

Children with special educational

needs and disabilities, and those who speak English as an additional language, were said to be 'exceptionally well supported' to reach their full learning potential.

The report said: "There are exceptionally robust procedures in place to ease and support children's transitions when they start nursery or school."

"Effective partnerships, both with parents and other professionals, ensure that children's individual needs are recognised and met appropriately."

Children were also said to 'thrive' in a busy, stimulating environment

and inspectors said staff consistently provided children with challenging but achievable experiences.

Ms Johnson added: "The playgroup is a hive of activity as children enthusiastically make choices within their play. Fun and laughter are an integral part of the day and sounds of extremely happy and contented children reverberate both indoors and outside."

Susan McDonagh, deputy manager, said: "We are absolutely delighted with the report."

"It recognises the progress the children have made through the hard work and dedication of the staff."

NEWS

in brief

Stripped fridges in fly-tip menace

MORE than 110 fridges and freezers were dumped across Walsall in just a month, as council chiefs battle a rise in dumped rubbish.

Some scrap collectors are believed to be collecting fridges from residential properties and then dropping the gutted remains in beauty spots and streets after removing metal parts they can sell on.

A total of 117 fridges and freezers were fly-tipped in the borough in July, prompting a warning from environmental crime officers.

One street in Walsall saw 26 fridges dumped within four days.

The council runs a bulky collection service which takes a fridge for £13.50. Residents can take their fridge to the recycling centres at Fryers Road, Leamore, or Merchants Way, Aldridge.

Speeding driver had £31k in cash

POLICE who pulled over a speeding motorist in Willenhall discovered tens of thousands of pounds cash in the car.

Officers from the Central Motorways Police Group were carrying out routine checks when they pulled over a 40-year-old man on Armstrong Way, Willenhall, near junction 10. They found £31,000 believed to be the proceeds of crime. The man, from the Cannock area, has been bailed by police until a date in October.

Pets chain eye up ex-Dreams base

A NATIONAL pet specialist chain says it is keen to expand in Walsall after lining up a derelict retail park unit. Pets at Home has earmarked Reedswood Retail Park for premises as part of its expansion plans.

An application to vary the planning condition to convert and relaunch the former Dreams building off Reedswood Way has been submitted to Walsall Council for consideration next month.

Help is needed at parties for OAPs

VOLUNTEERS are needed to host tea parties for elderly people across Walsall. The Elderly charity, aiming to tackle loneliness, aims to organise monthly gatherings on Sundays for those aged 75 and over. To help call 0121 603 1331 or email pamela.walker@contact-theelderly.org.uk.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

ERIC Pickles, the rotund government minister who looks rather like a wheelie bin himself, is calling for builders to include refuse storage areas in new homes.

He says 'unsightly bins left lying around the neighbourhood can damage the visual amenity of an area'. Which, I think, in English means they look a bit of a mess. And he's not wrong.

But what Mr Pickles is less vocal about is the reason why we have these plastic monstrosities forced on us in the first place.

To meet the legally-binding requirements of the EU's 1999 Landfill Directive, central government has spent the last decade setting punitive recycling targets for local councils, to reduce the amount of waste buried underground. They are also taxed £80 for every ton they send to landfill.

Of course, it is no surprise that the councils have seized on it all with a vicious zeal, positively salivating at the prospect of a spot of 'zero tolerance' and 'changing people's attitudes'.

If there is one thing local government loves, it is 'changing people's attitudes'.

But that doesn't alter the fact that the solution to the problem of unsightly wheelie bins lies not with the construction industry, or even with the local council. It would require the British government standing up to Europe, ripping up the silly targets, and invite Brussels to do its worse.

We all know it is about as likely as Eric Pickles winning a slimmer-of-the-year title, but it's a more realistic solution than wagging a finger at the building trade. And it would allow us to keep our plastic bin bags.

A GROUP of fun-loving bods at University of South Carolina have now declared that for people aged 55 and under, more than four cups of coffee a day could be a passport to an early grave.

Not only that, but another study found that fresh fruit juice is also bad for you, even worse than fizzy pop. And we all know how lethal that stuff is.

At this point, a vast army of earnest young people plotting to change the world in those ghastly corporate coffee houses that are taking over our towns, will be choking on their skinny lattes, so some good has come from this research.

On the other hand, it does make you wonder just what we are supposed to drink these days. No alcohol, naturally, no fizzy pop, no fruit juice and lay off the coffee. That leaves just water, doesn't it?

Whether following this advice would make you live longer, I'm not sure, but it would sure seem like it.

It's enough to drive you to drink.



The elegant exterior of the town hall building



The post office in Wednesbury



The hustle and bustle of the market square

Scarce book sheds a fresh light on 19th century life

Found in a shed, a book which chronicles a Black Country town in the 1800s has been brought back to life by a local historian

A RARE and historic book that shows a snapshot of a Black Country town more than 100 years ago has been lovingly reprinted.

A dishevelled and disintegrating copy of *Wednesbury: Faces, Places and Industries*, first printed in 1897, was found in languishing in a Darlaston shed several months ago.

But now 400 copies of the scarce book are being reprinted after the uncovered original was restored by two local historians.

Tony Highfield, a historian from Darlaston, was given the book by his elderly neighbour after she cleared out her garden shed and fell in love with it straight away.

He said: "It's a lovely, extremely scarce and difficult to find book, and its reprint is long overdue."

Books

"It's one of those things you don't come across very often - there's lots of old books about but this one is a rare and scarce one."

"I can't find out much about it, we've been in touch with all the local libraries and although they know about it, and a lot of people have photocopies of it, the book itself is very scarce."

After its discovery Mr Highfield and fellow Darlaston historian Bev Parker set about getting it reprinted, first by restoring the book, and then checking the copyright.

Wednesbury businessman Richard Garbett, whose grandfather's firm is mentioned in the book, was also involved in having the 400 copies printed.

The books, first printed in the 19th



Tony Highfield with a copy of his 'Wednesbury, faces, places and industry' reprint

century by Ryder and Sons Printers of Wednesbury, has 142 pages full of pictures and descriptions of sites of interest including factories, streets and churches, as well as photos of local celebrities and firms.

Mr Highfield said: "A lot of people have asked me what Wednesbury has done but this book explains exactly what we made and the adverts that went with them."

"Even I didn't know half the stuff that was in this book."

The original purchase price of the book was one shilling (5p) and was sent across the world, but Tony still doesn't know exactly how many were sold.

Tony added: "A lot of people are inter-

ested in local history and hopefully this book will be a success."

The first chapter of the book includes many famous names including Alderman Isaiah Oldbury JP who was Mayor of Wednesbury at the time of publishing and Richard Goldby, a local police constable who received a commendation from Queen Victoria for his actions after a mineshaft accident.

Information

It also shows scenes of the vast Willingsworth Blast Furnace in Coseley with information about the site and what it produced, and a picture of the Tame Valley Canal Wharf and its boats as well as churches including St Andrews in Darlaston Road which is

due to be demolished to make way for five homes.

Mr Highfield added: "Other towns at that time had their own books, like Blackpool, with photos and descriptions of all the nice places, and Ryders decided they wanted to do one for Wednesbury. It is a lovely book."

A special launch event is being held at Wednesbury Library, on Walsall Street, this Saturday from 10am to midday, when copies of the book will go on sale, and the Mayor of Sandwell is expected.

For that day only the book will be sold for £7, but after that they will be sold at the full price of £9.99 in Wednesbury Library.

THROUGH
THE YEARS

1983...

A TEST pilot was counting his lucky stars after he escaped with barely a scratch when his plane somersaulted during an emergency landing. Darrol Stinton's World War Two plane flipped over in a ploughed field at an air show at Halfpenny Green Airport near Wolverhampton.

WORKERS prepared for the reopening of Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre by fitting £12,000 worth of scenery for the first performance. Backstage staff spent eight days getting fixtures and fittings ready for the opening show of the musical *Grease*.

A WEDNESBURY police inspector joined his station's keep-fit campaign and ended up in hospital. Chris Denley fell over a curb after dodging traffic on his way to the swimming baths and ripped tendons in his foot.

1993...

WOLVERHAMPTON athlete Phyllis Smith blotted her copy-book with the BBC after she gave a plug to her butcher during an interview. She stunned millions by saying hello to Coven butcher Arthur Cackett just minutes after winning a bronze medal at the World Athletics Championships in Stuttgart.

THE Tettenhall Horse Sanctuary in Perton received an unusual request after an accountant asked to be buried next to his best friend. John Mulliner agreed to leave half his estate to the sanctuary providing he could be buried alongside Tina, a 35 stone Tamworth pig.

THOUSANDS of commuters in the region were hit by rail chaos when electric trains had to be taken out of service due to wear and tear on the wheels. Workers were left stranded because there were not enough of the old diesel units left in the area to plug the service gap.

2003...

FASHION giant Gap pulled out of Wolverhampton after trading in the city for just two years. The company announced plans to close its store in Dudley Street due to poor sales figures.

PUPILS at a Wolverhampton school were giving themselves a pat on the back after notching up top grades in their GCSE results. One hundred per cent of students at Wolverhampton Girls' High School achieved five or more A* to C grades.

A STRING of well-known names were lined up to receive honorary fellowships at the University of Wolverhampton annual congregation ceremony. The list included Governor of the Bank of England Mervyn King and former Olympians Hugh Porter and Anita Lonsbrough MBE.

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LETTERS

Should we commemorate our twinning?

I WONDER how many residents of Aldridge are aware that in May 1964 Aldridge twinned with the French town of Montelimar. The Aldridge website - www.aldridge-web.com/listings/119.html - has details.

Last mention of the twinning appears to have been made in 1972, so what happened? Is the twinning still in place? Certainly we do not have any signs up to indicate Aldridge is twinned with anyone. Are there any members of the Aldridge International Association

who might be able to throw more light on what took place in May 1964 and what happened subsequently? Does anyone else have any memory of this taking place?

I recently put forward a suggestion to Walsall Council to pedestrianise Anchor Road, to allow for a larger area to hold events like the Christmas and the International Market currently squeezed in by Aldridge Shopping Centre, and did mention the twinning to see if they have any plans for May

2014 but haven't heard anything yet. My suggestion was turned down - partly due to cost. But I'm wondering if monies raised by the proposed sale of the Manor House, as well as being used to provide alternative youth provision, could be invested in such project.

I'm interested if the residents of Aldridge have any thoughts on whether signs should be put up or if we should commemorate the 50th anniversary.

ROY SHEWARD

Redhouse Lane, Aldridge

Sadness at demise of Darlaston

IT was with much sadness that I read about the closure of Darlaston Town Football Club. For the matter of £15,000, small change to a Premier League player, the club would still be running.

It is 140 years old, and thought to be the second oldest non-league club in the country, but this counts for nothing in this age of saturation Sky TV coverage, and young children more interested in computer games than going down to watch Darlaston play.

So many ex-Wolves, Albion and Walsall players were on Darlo's books, yet the sad fact is that last season there were attendances fewer than the number of players on the pitch. In its heyday, the club won 10 league titles and countless cups. There is talk of a campaign to reform it. I can only hope this at least is achieved, as the lack of the sporting amenity at the Waverley Road ground will have an impact on many local residents.

ROBERT POWELL
Walsall Road
Darlaston

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle
Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

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expressandstar.co.uk

Poll shows the way

ON August 15 almost a quarter of those who voted (615) in Aldridge Central and South, via the ballot box, gave a clear warning to the old three political parties that they have had enough of being treated with contempt. By voting for Liz Hazell, their UKIP by-election candidate thus putting her in second place above Labour and Liberal Democrats.

As her election agent Liz, I would like to give those voters our thanks. I would also like to thank the staff in Walsall Elections office for their efficiency.

The result of this by-election shows that in May next year UKIP is a party that the once disenfranchised voters can turn to - and there are a lot of them who once supported those three now tired old political parties.

DEREK BENNETT, Walsall UKIP branch chairman

Thanks for your votes

I WOULD like to thank all the residents of Aldridge Central and South who voted on 15th August 15. I am honoured to be elected as your new councillor and pledge to work hard for the ward. Your councillor team of John Murray, John Rochelle and myself will continue work to ensure that all residents are represented. If you would like to meet us or raise a concern we hold a surgery every Saturday in Aldridge library from 10am until 11am.

COUNCILLOR TIM WILSON,
Aldridge Central and South Ward

Housing crisis can be ended

OUR local housing crisis has been a long time in the making. A lack of housing that can be afforded by young working families, while private rents soar.

Over the past 14 years Tory-led Walsall Council and partners have under invested in new homes. The consequence is all to apparent as more than 1,000 families languish on waiting lists for social housing in the Darlaston and Moxley areas. How many more across Walsall? A shameful dereliction by regeneration leaders.

The number of new homes needs to treble. Local Enterprise Partnerships could kickstart this by separating developments for rent and shared ownership from market housing. Locally generated building is good for everyone. LEPS have the tools to address this needs and generate economic growth. Tragically, Walsall Council has neither the leadership or imagination.

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NEWS

Social centre plans for thriving allotment site

A SOCIAL and educational centre will be built at an allotment site used by scores of people in Walsall, under new plans.

The Sutton Road site has more than 80 plots and its association has more than 120 members. The building is planned to provide a place for allotment holders to socialise and swap tips.

According to the plans, students would be encouraged to visit to learn about the benefits of growing their own vegetables.

It is hoped the building will encourage families to take part in outdoor recreational activities, and will provide shelter to allotment holders during bad weather.

Members of the allotment association have volunteered their time to improve the site over the years and the centre is also intended to reward their efforts.

Over the past six years, the group has bought new wooden sheds for the 83 plots and removed 36 sheds with asbestos roofs. They were given a £10,000 The Big Lottery Fund grant and also provided toilets on-site.

Shared

An orchard has been created for picnics for families and as a children's play area.

The Sutton Road Allotment Association has seen its membership grow from 88 in 2009 to 122. Some plots are shared, which has helped to keep waiting lists down.

A report, which has been submitted with the planning application to Walsall Council, reads: "The proposed centre is to create a building to encourage the members of the association and their families so that when they come to the site to take part in outdoor recreation, they will have somewhere to sit and relax should the weather conditions deteriorate or if they just wish to socialise.

"Once the building is established we can then use it as a meeting place to invite groups such as schools to explain why they should take up growing their own vegetables and the healthy benefits of fresh grown food."

Tommy brings home belt



Tommy Simkin who has just won an international gold belt in Jiu-jitsu

AN eight-year-old boy secured gold after taking part in an international martial arts competition in Holland.

Tommy Simkin, from Walsall, overcame his German competitor in the final of the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu section in Amsterdam.

He triumphed in the Grappler's Quest tournament in the grey belt under 34 kilos category.

The pupil at St Thomas More primary, Cheslyn Hay, has been practising Jiu-Jitsu over a number of years.

He trains at Simkin Martial Arts Academy in Walsall town centre and is following in the footsteps of his father Neil, who runs the centre. He trains up to seven days a week and has previously competed in numerous competitions.

There were more than 300 young

people who took part in the competition in Amsterdam across a wide range of categories.

Tommy also secured silver after taking on a 12-year-old in the no-gi class. He received medals and a belt.

Mother Katie Simkin, 43, said: "He has been doing it since he can walk. His dad has always done it and he is now following suit. We are very proud, as any parent would be.

Enjoys

"He always puts 100 per cent in to his training. He has worked really hard. We have never pushed him. His dream is one day to become a world champion, he loves it."

Tommy, who also enjoys karate, previously took part in the Kids Pan American Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Championships in California.

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NEWS

Residents brand new warehouse an eyesore

RESIDENTS living near a towering new self-storage warehouse – which has been nicknamed **Rubik's Cub** – claim the emerging building is a monstrosity.

The centre on the Walsall-Sandwell border is visible to thousands of drivers travelling on the M6 and is being built at a cost of more than £5 million.

The 112,000 sq ft warehouse is being constructed by StorageBase in Wednesbury and will contain around 1,000 storage rooms. Bosses hope it will be used by people starting businesses from home.

But homeowners living near the site at junction nine of the M6 have hit out at the design for the structure.

Retired surveyor Kenneth Brace and his wife Barbara, who have lived at their home in St Paul's Road for 49 years, can see the building from the back of their house.

He said: "When the leaves come off the trees it's going to be a blight. At the moment it's nice and clean but after it's dirty it's going to be a real eyesore."

"I originally trained as an architect and I would never have designed anything as badly as that."

Neighbour Karen Barfoot, 60, added: "People who I have spoken to have said



The massive new self-storage warehouse being built beside the M6 'what on an earth is that?' I don't understand why it had to be built here. It's just a monstrosity."

Distracted

She raised concerns about the safety of motorists on the motorway, saying: "I think it's dangerous. Junction nine is already the busiest section of the motorway but now you'll have people being distracted staring at this."

The development will create six new jobs, and will be available to be accessed 24 hours a day.

The building was granted planning permission by Sandwell Council's planning committee in September, despite a petition against the plans.

Retired company director Gerald Gould, aged 69 of Sparrows Close attended the meetings and voiced his concerns before its approval.

He said: "No one at the council, apart from our councillor, Mavis Hughes, was interested in our concerns."

Gareth Williams, development director for Opus Land Development which is building the warehouse said: "Local residents and businesses had a chance to express their concerns."

"There has already been planning permission for a seven-storey hotel on the site before. However it's disappointing if there are objections from locals."

Fast and furious road danger on dual carriageway

BOY racers are using a dual carriageway as an illegal race track – leading to fears that a serious accident may happen.

Young drivers of souped-up cars have been gathering on the Black Country New Road, between Moxley and Bilston, and speeding at up to 80mph, it is claimed.

Police say there is an issue with car cruisers and they are

now looking at an injunction which would stop racers congregating in the area. Supercar drivers are believed to have come from as far as Tamworth and Telford to take part.

Darlaston South councillor Doug James said the racers are meeting at least once a month between midnight and 4am.

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NEWS

Major new TV role for Tom



Reflecting on soap success - Walsall actor Tom Roberts pictured at home in Highgate

HE has appeared in several TV soaps over the years but a Walsall actor is taking on his biggest role - as a detective in Emmerdale.

Tom Roberts, who has had parts in soaps including EastEnders, Coronation Street and Doctors, will appear in 22 episodes of the ITV drama over the coming months.

The 51-year-old, who was given the part of DC Flanagan seven weeks ago, has already filmed half-a-dozen episodes on set in Leeds.

Mr Roberts, of Belvidere Road, Highgate, said: "I'm comfortable with this kind of role. I've played detectives before in Doctors and Coronation Street.

"I've done about five or six episodes so far. It varies how long you can be on set. You can be there from 7am until 7pm or just for three or four hours.

"I will be in 22 episodes. I will be filming through to the end of September. They are going to air very soon."

Mr Roberts, who has been an actor since

1987 and went to drama school in London, said each episode had taken four to five days to film.

He also recently starred as Frank in Educating Rita which ran throughout June at the Lichfield Garrick, where his co-star as Rita was Coronation Street's Tupele Dorgu.

He has toured theatres in the UK playing the role of Bill opposite Hollywood actress Stefanie Powers in On Golden Pond. The production visited Wolverhampton Grand Theatre and Lichfield Garrick last year.

He explained that TV work was very different to appearing in a play. "It's very different to being on stage," he said. "There's a lot of waiting around before you do your part so you have to be focused and on the ball when the time comes."

Mr Roberts has been a regular playing the part of DI Terry Wood in Doctors. He played Chris Wright, who ran the Queen Victoria pub in EastEnders, in the early 2000s and had various parts in Coronation Street between 2004 and 2006.

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NEWS

Saddlers fans in court after match day brawl

SIX football fans from Walsall have admitted violent disorder following a brawl ahead of a match in Shropshire.

The Walsall Football Club supporters were arrested after a fight broke out in Shrewsbury town centre, ahead of the derby match between Shrewsbury Town and Walsall held on October 14 last year.

Rival groups linked with the clubs were involved in the unrest, in which three police officers were injured.

Court

Two weeks ago 16 Shrewsbury fans, including four teenagers, admitted being part of the brawl.

Then last week a group of Walsall supporters pleaded guilty to involvement in violent disorder at Shrewsbury Crown Court.

Those appearing were: Arron Arrowsmith, 34, of Harden Road; Michael Joseph Edwards, 56, of Roebuck Road; Neil Robinson, 51, of Stephenson Avenue; James Ross, 27, of Windrush Close; Dean John Stone, 32, of Burgh Way; and Mark Fredrick Walters, 27, of Alumwell Road. Ross also pleaded guilty to possession of a class A drug, cocaine.

Another three men denied the charge, Stephen Michael Leonard, 28, of Roebuck Road; Stephen Michael Leonard, 50, of Kent Street;



Arron Arrowsmith arrives at court



James Ross



Neil Robinson



Michael Edwards



Dean Stone

and Ben Michael Edwards, 26, of Roebuck Road.

A tenth man, Samuel Bryan, of Leamore Lane, was absent from the hearing due to health problems.

Judge Peter Barrie told those who pleaded not guilty to return to the same court for a trial on a date to be set.

They will be tried separately to two Shrewsbury men, who have denied charges relating to the same incident.

The six who admitted the violence will be sentenced on September 18.

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Studio School could be right move after results

AS STUDENTS throughout the country receive their AS and A level results some will be partying late into the night but others will be having difficult conversations with their parents and schools.

What happens when your exam results are not what you were hoping for? What options are available?

Students and their parents need to be aware of the progression opportunities that are available to them following their exam results. Often decisions need to be made quickly, whether to re-sit sixth form or look for a place at college or in training.

Walsall Studio Sixth Form now offers a real alternative to school sixth forms and local college providers with Level 2 and Level 3 courses for young people, available

as two-year programmes or as a one year 'fast-track' courses.

The new studio school and sixth form in the heart of Walsall town centre offers BTEC Diplomas, GCSE Resits and A Levels. Courses are 2.5 days learning and 2 days in work placement each week and prepare young people for both university and, importantly, the 'real world' workplace.

"Over the years I have spoken with many sixth form and college students on AS results day who are disappointed with their grades. They need to know this is not the end of the world and that we can tailor a programme that will get them back on route into university or directly into employment" said Dan Parkes, Walsall Studio School Principal.

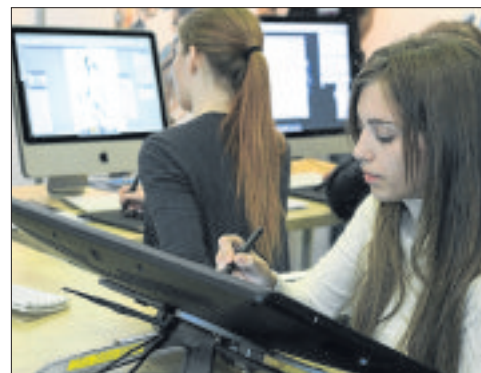
Focus

He added: "Our one-year fast-track programmes are a consideration for some young people as getting to university next year is a priority, but whether the focus is university or employment our new studio school provides both vocational and academic qualifications that provide the UCAS points universities require and the work experience employers want".

Sometimes the best course of action for a young person disappointed with their grades is to look for a change. Small class sizes and a tailored approach to learning with 1:1 coaching in specialist areas provide a focused approach for young people – the kind of approach which may be ideal for someone looking for a new sixth form place following disappointing AS results, or a first year at college which has failed to live up to expectations.

There are a limited number of sixth form places available for students to study BTEC qualifications and A levels in areas including: Business, IT Digital, Music & Music Technology, Performing Arts, Broadcast Media and Live Events. Students are also able to re-sit GCSE English and Maths if they need to while progressing onto advanced level courses in other areas.

Walsall Studio School has a helpline for young people looking at their options following their AS results contact: 01922 621951 or 07940 735282.



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Small class sizes and 1:1 coaching are available at the Studio School

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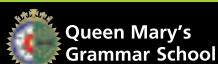
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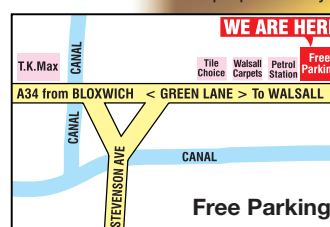
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NEWS

Cheers! Chef starts a brewery in his kitchen



Craft micro-brewer Jez Couzens with his Breezy Pheasey bottled beers inspired by a trip to the West Coast of the USA

A CHEF has branched out into the beer brewing business and has created a micro-brewery in his own kitchen.

It has been an eight-month journey of experimentation for Jez Couzens from Pheasey, who was inspired to start his home-brewing operations after visiting craft breweries in California last year.

Under the name of Breezy Pheasey Brewery, the 37-year-old has already brewed four different beers and now dreams of getting his craft ales into local pubs and shop shelves.

Mr Couzens, who works at David Lloyd health club in Great Barr, visited craft breweries in California on a trip

to Nevada last year to celebrate the 40th birthday of his brother Jonathan, who also recently launched his own Beer and Loathing micro-brewery.

"There I tasted some of the best beer I'd ever tasted," Mr Couzens said. "These breweries produce amazing craft ales for the whole of the US and some of the European market."

"They have great taste, aroma, strength and body. After seeing my brother's ventures in beer and receiving plenty of help and ideas, I wanted to try and introduce craft ale to Pheasey."

Mr Couzens' parents gave him a home-brewing kit last Christmas and batches of beer have been brewing in his kitchen in Tyndale Crescent since.

Brewing with his 40-year-old friend Warren Kerby, of Pheasey, his first attempt was a Cornish-style pale ale he named Cascade Wave. He then made a stout called Citrout and American pale ales Cargo Net and Compass 6, which is the strongest of the four at 5.6 per cent.

He said: "I want to experiment and give someone something I enjoy. It's been an eight month journey of trying different beers. I've done a new batch every time and tried something new. It's a hobby gone wild."

Each batch, which makes between 30 and 40 bottles, takes a month and 17 days to make. Visit Breezy Pheasey Brewery on Facebook or Twitter, or go to www.breezypheaseybrewery.co.uk

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NEWS

£31k benefits cheat among worst in UK

A BENEFITS cheat from Walsall has been named and shamed in a list of Britain's top 10 worst offenders. The Department for Work and Pensions published a rogues' list of the worst convicted fraudsters ordered to pay back hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Among them is Inam Ul-Haq, who admitted claiming £31,116 in income support while failing to declare capital. The 48-year-old was ordered to pay

£148,794 within six months or face 21 months in jail.

In 2012-13, the department's specialist Financial Investigation Unit obtained 271 confiscation orders worth £8.9 million – a 50 per cent increase by value on the previous year.

Welfare Minister Lord Freud said: "These cases should serve as a warning to the cynical minority who see benefits as a way of unfairly lining their pockets at the taxpayer's expense. You

will face justice and we will use all the powers of the law to close down bank accounts, freeze assets and force the sale of properties to claw back the stolen money and any proceeds made from that stolen money.

"Those who refuse will face time behind bars and still have to pay up when they are out."

The list included a man ordered to pay back £1m under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Moped rider fined after parking at cycle stand

A BEMUSED rider has been hit with a £70 fine after parking his moped in a bike stand in Walsall town centre.

Mark Blackstock left his Jawa outside the New Art Gallery but within 15 minutes had been issued with a penalty ticket.

He said it is registered as a bicycle and the 51-year-old has called for the fine to be rescinded by Walsall Council. But council bosses say it is a motor vehicle and parking enforcement officers were right to issue a ticket.

It happened as publisher Mr Blackstock, from Chukery, visited the town centre at around 9.25am on August 7.

He said he had never come across a problem while riding the 20-year-old Jawa before, having left it secure across Sandwell, Cannock, Wolverhampton, Dudley and Birmingham.

It has also been chained to bike stands in Walsall – including the one where he was issued with a ticket.

Mr Blackstock said: "I bought my Jawa for its convenience on small journeys, to navigate through traffic congestion, to save money on fuel, tax, insurance and the cost of car parking – and although it only has a top speed of 25mph it is great fun."

"I usually chain my bicycle to a designated bicycle stand otherwise it could easily be stolen by simply being picked up, carried off or put in the back of a van. If I didn't use a bicycle stand



Mark Blackstock, from Walsall, who returned to his JAWA moped to find a parking ticket left on it outside Walsall Art Gallery

then I would have to chain my bicycle to some other item of street furniture in which case it may be reasonable to issue a parking ticket, but only if it was obstructing a public highway or footpath.

"So, where possible, I use a bicycle stand provided by the local authority for securing bicycles."

"During the past year I have travelled all around the West Midlands on my Jawa and have never had a problem." He had been to three shops

in the town before returning to the stand in Gallery Square.

Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "The area the moped was parked in is a designated area which is reserved for pedal cycles only. A moped is classed by the DVLA as a motor vehicle therefore the parking enforcement officer was right to issue the ticket."

"Should the driver/rider wish to appeal the penalty charge notice the appeal will be looked at on its own merits."

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Clubhouse celebration for players

A WEEKEND of rugby and activities will be held in Aldridge on Saturday and Sunday to celebrate the opening of a new clubhouse.

Aldridge RFC will host the event at its Bourne Vale grounds.

The original clubhouse, which was destroyed by fire in 2009 has been replaced with a purpose-built one.

Chairman Alex Reed, said: "A huge amount of credit has to go to the members who despite having no training facilities and not having played a home game for such a long period of time, managed to stick together and generate a really strong club spirit."

"A great deal of credit should also go to the committee who have worked tirelessly to build the new pavilion and provide the club with a superb facility."

It will be officially opened on Saturday with a rugby tournament and on Sunday there will be a charity match with proceeds going towards Help for Heroes.

There will also be live music, a disco, and food and drink across the weekend.

Starlight walk

A STARLIGHT walk is to be held for women in Aldridge. The event starts from Aldridge Community Centre in Middlemore Lane at 7.30pm on September 14. All money raised will go to St Giles Walsall Hospice. Register at www.stgileshospice.com/starlightwalk or call 01922 602526 for details.

Minute's silence in tribute to man who turned round council

A MINUTE'S silence has been held by former colleagues as they paid tributes following the death of an Aldridge councillor.

Tom Ansell, who was the town's transport and environment chief was remembered at a meeting of the town's full council.

Tories hold on to seat



Tim Wilson - elected

THE Conservatives have retained the Aldridge Central and South seat following the death of Tom Ansell.

Timothy Wilson gained 1,254 votes last Thursday with Liz Hazell, fro Ukup, winning 615 votes to capture second place. Labour's Bob Grainger was third with 470 votes, Roy Sherward, Lib Dems was fourth with 114 votes and the English Democrats' candidate Chris Newey polled 72. Turnout was 23 per cent.

The father-of-two served the Aldridge Central and South ward as a Conservative for more than 25 years. He died last month aged 70.

He was credited for leading the improvement of the authority after it was condemned by the government more than 10 years ago.

He was also praised for helping transfer the council's housing stock to Walsall Housing Group to provide better standard homes.

Labour deputy group leader Sean Coughlan, said: "People should recognise the work he did in actually turning this council around."

Council leader Mike Bird said: "He gave people who live in Walsall better living conditions than they would have experienced had they stayed under council ownership."

Fellow Aldridge councillor John Murray, who knew Mr Ansell for more than 25 years said he was a 'real team player'.

Mr Ansell celebrated both his 70th birthday and ruby wedding anniversary with his wife Rose shortly before his death.

Young actors given tips from the top



Maisie Harewood and Naomi Steele, both aged 11, who have been taking part in the drama workshop at Aldridge Youth Theatre

BUDDING actors have been taking to the stage and receiving advice from professionals in Aldridge.

A performing arts workshop has been running at Aldridge Youth Theatre for young people wanting to learn the tricks of the trade.

The Feuds and Fables drama course was run last week by Joanne Billingham and Robert Mountford of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Robert has appeared in the likes of Casualty, EastEnders and London's Burning during his career in acting.

The course included learning about characterisation, dance and movement to music and voice projection.

The boys and girls also been learned about choral speaking and taking part in drama games, which culminated in a performance for family and friends at the Noddy Park Road theatre on Friday afternoon.

It has been open to eight to 14 year-olds who have an interest in acting and 20 signed up to get involved in the activities.

Culinary success for Olivia



Winning - Olivia Weir

A STUDENT from a school in Aldridge showed off her culinary talents and won the Young Chef of the Year title at a competition organised by education catering specialist Aspens Services.

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Technology College student Olivia Weir won the contest hosted by Grace Academy Coventry which saw 18 students from three schools in the West Midlands take part.

They had two hours to prepare two servings of a main course and dessert using ingredients costing a maximum of £10.

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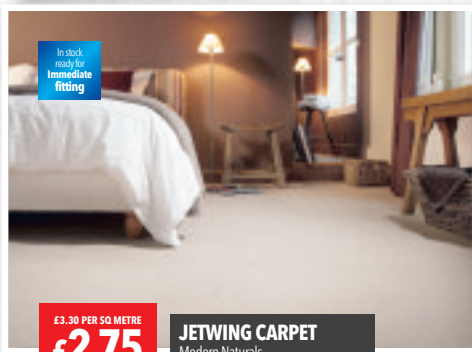
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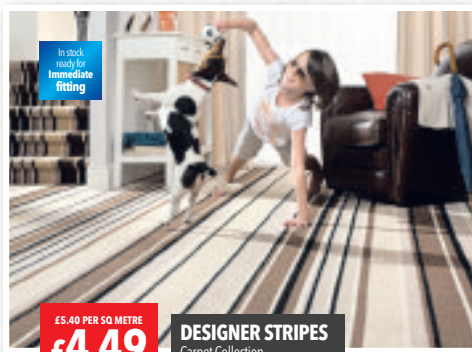
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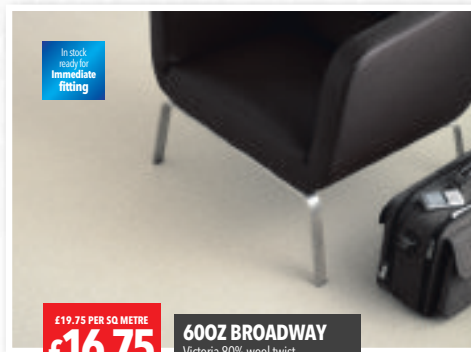
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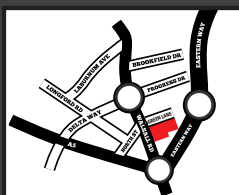
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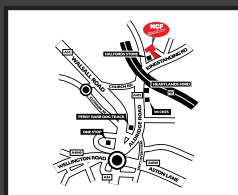
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NEWS

Driver face delays and road diversions

A MAIN route in Walsall has been reduced to one-way for two weeks, leading to warnings of delays and diversions for motorists. Roadworks are taking place along the Bloxwich Road, which is the main link between Walsall town centre and Bloxwich. They are due to be finished on September 1.

The road will be one-way between its junctions with Forest Lane and Leamore Lane, with traffic only able to flow towards Bloxwich. Forest Lane will be closed to through traffic. Southbound traffic travelling towards Walsall town centre will be diverted along Leamore Lane, Green Lane, Court Way and Stafford Street. Alternatively, motorists will be able to travel on Harden Road, Ross Road, Coalpool Lane and Proffitt Street.

Band Reap rewards



Pete Bradley, Dave Joynes and Carl Jenkins, of Walsall band Reap, have secured a place at the Galtres Festival. A WALSALL rock band has been chosen to open a music festival tomorrow (Friday). Reap were selected for the Galtres Festival following a national competition and public vote.

Lead singer Dave Joynes and his bandmates will be performing at the North Yorkshire event following a contest organised by SupaJam, which specialises in taking independent bands to festivals and venues in Europe.

Acts such as Reef, Maximo Park, The Stranglers and The Undertones are lined up to appear. Dave said the event would provide the next stage in the band's development.

"We've been building our profile for a long time now," he said. "It's been a struggle and we have had to work hard to make our own luck. We are going to make the most of this festival and I hope this will finally win us the recognition we've been looking for."

Band manager Kelvin Cushman added: "Dave is a unique song writer. He and his band are truly in tune with the inner city because that's where they come from. They deserve this success."

Children teams' offices 'are unfit'

ACCOMMODATION used by Walsall's children's services teams is under review after many facilities were labelled 'no longer fit for purpose'.

It follows recommendations made by a working group tasked with overhauling the department after Ofsted inspectors rated the local authority's safeguarding services, and its capacity to improve, as 'inadequate' last year.

by Lisa O'Brien

The working group, made up of councillors, also criticised high workloads and a frequent use of agency staff in the department, which has since been given an 'adequate' rating following a more recent inspection.

A new report by children's services boss Rose Collinson has revealed the vulnerable children's services teams, which are accountable for the majority of referrals and assessments, dealt with the highest caseloads in June with an average of 27.

The caseload numbers for the initial response service during the same period was noted as 'particularly high' and averaged at around 35 across three teams.

The report revealed the number of agency staff employed by children's services still stood at 64 in June, but 14 new social workers have been appointed

recently.

The report, which is due to be discussed by the council's children and young people's scrutiny and performance panel this week, said: "Property, accommodation and facilities for supporting delivery in children's services is under review."

"Property services are working closely with other support services to identify areas of improvement. Many of the buildings currently in use by teams have already been identified as no longer fit for purpose."

Earlier this month, it was announced that the children's services department had made improvements in the past year as Ofsted published a report rating it as 'adequate' following an inspection.

Revamp for funeral home

A FUNERAL home in Willenhall will be refurbished to include a new headstone showroom, under plans lodged with Walsall Council. Thomas Ely & Sons, operated by Mid-counties Co-operative Society Limited, could get two new shop fronts. The workshops at the Somerford Place business, would also be demolished under the plans. Proposals include improving the chapels of rest to provide separate staff and public access. A headstone showroom would replace a garage facility, with the hearses relocated.

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2U

What's On! Walsall

THEATRE REVIEW

All's Well That Ends Well,
Royal Shakespeare
Theatre, Stratford

ONE of Shakespeare's less often staged plays gets a marvellous modern dress makeover in Nancy Meckler's vibrant, laugh-out-loud funny production.

It tells of the determined Helena's bid to wed young nobleman Bertram, though he is equally determined to stay single, even if that means going off to war with his boastful buddy Parolles, who secretly wants to be more than just a friend.

Apart from the title, this is a less quotable Shakespeare work but there are several compelling meditations on the human condition. There is a feminist theme in which the women are united by their disappointment in feckless men, from Charlotte Cornwall's dignified countess despairing at her son Bertram to the irresistible Diana – a sparkling performance by Natalie Klammer – who wins him back for Joanna Horton's scheming Helena.

Jonathan Slinger is more than a comic turn as Parolles, making the buffoon a poignant wretch once exposed as a coward. Alex Waldmann's Bertram grows from brat to seasoned soldier in desert combat gear. The only derisory note in this production is an 'express war through the medium of dance' scene that could be ditched to trim the three-hour running time, which otherwise flies by.

All's Well continues in repertoire at Stratford until September 26.

Leon Burakowski

Career goes back to musical roots for a 1970s superstar

STARSKY & Hutch star Paul Michael Glaser, who was Ford Gran Torino-driving cop David Starsky opposite David Soul's Kenneth 'Hutch' Hutchinson in 1970s prime time TV, returns to the roots of his career to star in musical Fiddler On The Roof when it comes on tour to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from October 15 to 19.

The 70-year-old American got an early break playing young Perchick in the 1971 movie Fiddler On The Roof, after proving his acting credentials in Broadway productions.

He will be playing Teyve the milkman, a role made famous by Zero Mostel on Broadway and by Chaim Topol in the hit movie about a Jewish community in Tsarist Russia.

Strictly

The new production is being directed by Craig Revel Horwood, he of the wispish Strictly Come Dancing judgements.

"We've chatted on the phone and he sounds a lovely guy," says Paul.

"I'm looking forward to working with a cast of actor-musicians. Craig has found a means of doing the show that way.

"For one thing, it has an amazing score. For another, it's a universal story which everyone can understand.

"It's about the everyday problems which we all have and how we manage to deal with them, how we achieve a certain sense of well-being. But it also means a great deal to Jewish people in particular.

"It's a tale told by Teyve the milkman, a story that reflects Jewish history in a very poignant way, in particular about the Jewish diaspora, the



Paul Michael Glaser bearded ready for his role in Fiddler On The Roof

scattering of the Jews around the world.

"But it also celebrates the spirit of mankind and the desire to identify with one particular group.

"Teyve is a gigantic part and at this stage, a couple of months before we start rehearsals, I'm really enjoying getting into training to play the role... it's also given me an excuse to grow a beard."

Vayvey gets ready for its rock festival

SANDWELL Valley is set to rock this August bank holiday weekend at fundraising music festival Judgestock.

Headline acts confirmed for the festival include boy band Blue, R&B sensation Lemar, Black Country-Brum indie rockers The Twang, London's Alabama 3, legendary rockers The Quireboys and Staffordshire's long-haired rising rock star Mitchel Emms, who appeared The Voice.

Over 100 acts will play across the three-day event. In addition to the headliners, tribute acts will be paying homage to the Kings of Leon, Lady Gaga, Pearl Jam, Foo Fighters, The Beatles, Madness and UB40. There will also be a showcase for local bands and young people from Coneysgre Arts in Tipton.

Tickets for the event are on sale priced at £12 per day for adults or £30 for the three days, £6 per day or £15 for the three days event for children (5 to 16 years) with under 5s free when accompanied by a paying adult. There are booking fees. Tickets can be purchased via www.ticketmaster.co.uk website.



A decade on from Fame Academy, Lemar is an R&B star

GIG REVIEW

The B-52s, O2 Academy, Birmingham

KOOKY and kitsch with a retro sound and look that's back in fashion for at least the third time, America's finest purveyors of deviant party pop gave a short but sweet 75-minute set in their first visit to Brum in five years.

Opening with Planet Claire, shuffle beat contrasting with Kate Pierson's sci-fi B-movie wail, new wave veterans were transported back to 1979 when the B-52s emerged from Athens, Georgia, to add a splash of colour to the austere British post-punk scene.

Fred Schneider, in sparkling shirt and rainbow trousers, declaimed his half-talked lyrics in his distinctive New Jersey drawl and generally acted like Sheldon Cooper's camp uncle. Vermillion-haired Pierson and the blonde, black leather-jacketed, bong-playing Cindy Wilson shared the band's trademark vocal sound, combining for a twin-holler attack that is still exhilarating after 35 years and 20 million album sales. But the 1960s-dancing is now mostly reduced to arm movements.

The main set came to a satisfying conclusion with timeless good time pop number Love Shack. The B-52s returned to tease us with Party Out Of Bounds before the inevitable Rock Lobster, the wacky surf punk classic on which, as it turns out, Cindy Wilson can still do a pretty impressive dolphin impression.

Leon Burakowski

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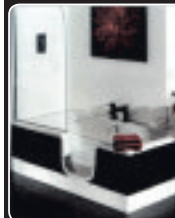
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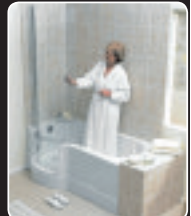
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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 25.08.13

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CHOICE



Brenda Blethyn

Vera

ITV, 8pm

Brenda Blethyn returns for a third series of the hit crime drama. This time, DCI Vera Stanhope and her sidekick, DS Joe Ashworth, are investigating the brutal murder of young physiotherapist Lizzie Faulkner, who was gunned down at a luxury country retreat. It's a tragic tale, but one with a personal aspect for Ashworth because it brings him face to face with ghosts from his past he thought he'd buried long ago. Lizzie's holiday had been a gift from grateful client Corinne Franks, the architect who designed the complex where she was staying.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.35** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** Sunday Morning Live 2013. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** BBC News. Weather. **12.10** Live Formula 1: The Belgian Grand Prix. **3.15** Summer's Supermarket Secrets. (R) **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Britain's Big Wildlife Revival.

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. John Craven visits Devon and recalls memorable days out featured on the programme, from Ellie Harrison's attempt at winter surfing to Matt Baker's search for deer in the Highlands.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the experts return to Wightwick Manor near Wolverhampton, where items include drawings by JMW Turner and objects once owned by the last survivor of the Titanic.

9.00 What Remains. New series. A detective is called in when a couple discover a body in the flat above their new home. Murder mystery, starring David Threlfall (Shameless), with Russell Tovey.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Room 101 - Extra Storage. With Clive Anderson, Alex Jones and Jack Whitehall. (R)

11.05 That Puppet Game Show. With comedian Jack Dee and The One Show's Alex Jones. (R)

11.45 Film: A Walk to Remember. (2002) Romantic drama, with Mandy Moore.

1.20 Weatherview. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.10** Film: Bachelor Mother. (1939) **7.30** Around the World in 80 Days. (R) **8.30** BBC News. Weather. **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** The Incredible Spice Men. (R) **11.30** Live MotoGP. **1.00** EastEnders. **2.50** Triathlon.

6.00 Flog It! From Southend-on-Sea, Essex. (R)

6.30 Iolo's Great Welsh Parks. New series. Iolo Williams explores four historic estates, beginning with Cardiff's Bute Park.

7.00 The Great British Bake Off. Thirteen contestants battle it out to be named Britain's best amateur baker. (R)

8.00 Dragons' Den. A publisher proposes a business strategy that goes against magazine industry trends, while three former ad men turn the tables by putting some tough questions to the Dragons.

9.00 The Haiky Bikers: Restoration Road Trip. Si King and Dave Myers work on steam train the Night Owl, forging a steel wheel taller than they are for the biggest locomotive restoration in Britain. Last in the series.

10.00 QI. With Jeremy Clarkson, Jason Manford and Sandi Toksvig.

10.30 James May's Toy Stories: Flight Club. James sets out to break the British record for the longest flight by a toy glider. (R)

11.30 Film: The Hoax. (2006) Fact-based drama, starring Richard Gere, Alfred Molina and Hope Davis.

1.20 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.15** Holly City. (R) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.15** Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.25** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.40** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Bookaboo. (R) **7.15** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.30** The Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes! **7.55** Kick Butowski - Suburban Daredevil. **8.10** Kick Butowski - Suburban Daredevil. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Country House Sunday. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.15** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** ITV News: Weather. **11.20** Ade in Britain. (R) **12.25** Film: Columbo: Now You See Him. (1976) **2.20** A Touch of Frost. (R) **4.25** Film: Tea with Mussolini. (1999)

6.30 Regional Programme;

6.45 ITV News: Weather.

7.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Atomic Kitten's Liz McClarnon, dancing on ice skater Dan Whiston and Boyzone singer Keith Duffy take part in the quiz show, hosted by Ben Shephard. Last in the series.

8.00 Vera. New series. The detective investigates the murder of a young physiotherapist at a luxury country retreat. Crime drama, starring Brenda Blethyn and David Leon.

9.55 ITV News: Weather.

10.10 The People's Medal. Natasha Kaplinsky takes a behind-the-scenes look at the selection process for the royal British Empire Medal - an award for those who have done remarkable things for others. (R)

11.10 Murder, She Wrote. (R)

12.05 The Store. **2.10** Motorsport UK. **2.55** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** Ironman 2013. **7.00** FIA GT Series. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** Film: Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home. (1986) **4.50** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.50** Channel 4 News.

6.15 Film: Chalet Girl. (2011) Premiere. A skateboarding champion out of her comfort zone working at a ski resort competes in a prestigious snowboarding contest. Comedy, with Felicity Jones and Ed Westwick.

8.00 Celebrity Deal or No Deal: Gok Wan. The style guru tries to win up to £250,000 for charity, joined by familiar faces including Melanie Sykes, Kim Woodburn and Gabby Roslin, who help to open the mystery boxes.

9.00 Film: The Mechanic. (2011) Premiere. A hitman teaches his murdered mentor's son the tricks of the trade so they can seek vengeance together. Action thriller remake starring Jason Statham and Ben Foster.

10.50 Film: The Sixth Sense. (1999) A child psychologist takes on the case of a boy terrified by ghostly apparitions. M Night Shyamalan's supernatural thriller, with Bruce Willis, Haley Joel Osment and Toni Collette.

12.50 Catherine Tate: Laughing at the Noughties. (R) **2.40** Nashville. **3.25** Three in a Bed. (R) **4.20** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.15** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R) **5.40** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Fifi and the Flowerpots. (R) **6.15** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.25** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.40** Chloë's Closet. **6.50** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.00** Bananas in Pajamas. (R) **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.25** City of Friends. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.10** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.30** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. **9.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.25** Jelly Jam. **9.45** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.20** Sluggert. **10.40** Inside Hollywood. **10.45** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **11.45** Celebrity BB BOTS: Rylan's Supersized Sunday. **12.40** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.40** Film: Hitch. (2005) **3.55** Film: Stand By Me. (1986) **5.30** Film: Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. (1994)

6.55 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket: The Ashes. England v Australia. Mark Charles presents action from the final day of the Fifth Test at the Oval, as the last match of the series reached its conclusion.

8.00 Once Upon a Time. Greg and Tamara enlist Hook's help.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of BB life.

10.00 Film: Erin Brockovich. (2000) Oscar-winning fact-based drama, starring Julia Roberts.

12.35 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) **1.20** SuperCasino. **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: The Belgian Grand Prix Highlights **8.00** Hain & the Luminers @ Reading **9.00** Fall Out Boy & Disclosure @ Reading **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Boom Town **11.15** Buffy Clyro @ Reading

BBC Four
7.00 Proms on Four: 20th Century Classics **9.00** Flamenco: Gypsy Soul **10.00** Storyville: Richard Pryor - Omit the Logic **11.20** Film: Richard Pryor Live in Concert (1979)

ITV2
3.50 The Xtra Factor Rewind **4.50** Film: Mamma Mia! (2008) **7.00** Film: The Wedding Singer (1998) **9.00** Film: Shaun of the Dead (2004) **11.00** Film: The Nutty Professor (1996)

ITV3
3.50 Wycliffe **4.55** Murder. She Wrote **5.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00** Film: Housesitter (1991) **10.05** A Touch of Frost **11.45** Film: Intolerable Cruelty (2003)

ITV4
11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. Coverage of the seventh round of the season from Knockhill. **6.00** BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** Film: The Deer Hunter (1978)

E4
3.30 How I Met Your Mother **5.30** The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** New Girl **8.00** Film: Cleeseless (1995) **10.00** The Inbetweeners **10.30** Don't Trust the B*** in Apartment 23 **11.00** Alan Carr: Chatty Man

Film4
3.10 Home Alone (1990) **5.25** The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **9.00** Avatar (2009) Sci-fi adventure, with Sam Worthington.

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Thursday 5th to Saturday 7th
7.30pm plus Saturday matinee 2.30pm
£12.00, Conc £10.00

Backstreet Theatre Company present
JEKYLL & HYDE - THE MUSICAL
Thursday 26th to Saturday 28th • 7.30pm • £10.00

OCTOBER

MARTY WILDE
Wednesday 2nd • 7.30pm • £19.50

PAUL DANIELS
Thursday 3rd • 7.30pm • £17.50
One of the UK's favourite entertainers will be packing up his box of tricks for what could be the very last time this Autumn in a magically mammoth national 'first farewell' tour.

ANN BREEN
Friday 4th • 7.30pm • £15.00

RAT PACK VEGAS SPECTACULAR
Sunday 13th • 7.30pm • £20.00
"Purveyors of Cool" return by popular demand performing the greatest music of the 20th century, recreating the era of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr.

OCTOBER

Ballet Theatre UK present
THE NUTCRACKER
Thursday 24th • 7.30pm • £17.50. Conc £15.50, £10.00 (Under 16s)

CLASSIC CLAPTON
Friday 25th • 7.30pm • £16.00
The World's No.1 Eric Clapton Tribute Band will be making a welcome return to The Prince of Wales Theatre after a gap of nearly 10 years. The band features frontman Mike Hall who not only looks like Eric, he sings and plays guitar like him too!

LES McKEOWN'S BAY CITY ROLLERS SHOW
Saturday 26th • 7.30pm • £19.50. Conc £17.50

BUDDY AND THE KILLER
Sunday 27th • 7.30pm • £16.00
A non-stop unmissable Rock 'n' Roll celebration to the music of legendary icons Buddy Holly and 'The Killer' Jerry Lee Lewis.

AN EVENING WITH JONTY HEARNDEN
Thursday 31st • 7.30pm • £15.00
Now for the first time Jonty will share his behind-the-screen secrets and stories. Learn what items are sought after, what they are really worth and where to buy and sell as Jonty Hearnden asks "What's In Your Attic".

NOVEMBER

VOICE OF THE HEART
TRIBUTE TO CARPENTERS
Sunday 3rd • 7.30pm • £18.00. Conc £17.00

60's/70's NIGHT OUT
Sunday 10th • 7.30pm • £20.00
The Ivy League return and joining them for their first Night Out tour the fantastic Paper Lace now back together with original members Phil Wright and Cliff Fish.

FOSTER AND ALLEN
Tuesday 19th • 7.30pm • £20.00

CIRCUS OF HORRORS
Wednesday 20th • 7.30pm • £20.00. Conc £16.00

RAYMOND FROGGAT
Thursday 21st • 7.30pm • £16.00

ELO EXPERIENCE
Friday 22nd • 7.30pm • £18.00
40 years on, and the music of Jeff Lynne and the Electric Light Orchestra is still regularly played on radio stations throughout the world. Re-live this fantastic music and take a magical trip down memory lane for 2 hours with The ELO Experience.

DECEMBER

BEYOND THE BARRICADE
Tuesday 10th • 7.30pm • £18.50 (£5 off a pair of tickets if purchased before 1st October)

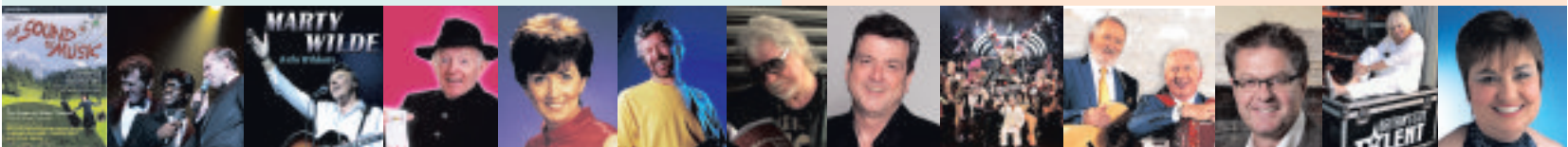
DECEMBER

JEAN MARTYN
Thursday 12th • 7.30pm • £12.00, Conc £10.00

Barry Steele present:
ROY ORBISON & FRIENDS
Friday 13th • 7.30pm • £19.50
If you love good music, then this is the show for you as Barry Steele presents his all live spectacular multi media tribute to The Big O, featuring classic Orbison hits from the 60's right through to the late 80's when Roy joined a band of men, who called themselves The Traveling Wilburys.

TALON - THE BEST OF THE EAGLES
Sunday 15th • 7.30pm • £20.00
Now in their sixteenth year together Talon are recognised throughout the industry as the world's definitive Eagles tribute show.

ALADDIN
Sunday 22nd • 1.30pm & 5.00pm
Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th • 2.30pm
Thursday 26th to Sunday 29th • 2.30pm & 7.00pm
Monday 30th • 2.30pm
£13.50. Conc £11.50, Family Ticket £42.00
Groups of ten or more £10.50
PMA Productions return to the Prince of Wales Centre to perform one of the most popular panto's Aladdin. Keith De Winter returns as Widow Twanky, heading up the professional cast who will be ably supported by the Studio 5 Dancers.



Film Choices

MONDAY

The Bourne Identity, ITV, 9pm

A fishing boat crew plucks a man out of the sea with two bullet wounds in his back and a safe-deposit number sewn into his skin – but absolutely no memory of who he is or how he got there. In the search for his true identity, he is pursued by assassins – but his attempts to escape them suggest his own past is far from straightforward. Thriller, starring Matt Damon. (2002)

TUESDAY

Ties That Bind, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman leaves her peaceful suburban home for New York to settle the affairs of her best friend, who has been murdered. She discovers there may have been more to the killing than the official explanation suggests – and realises her own life is also in danger. Mystery, starring Kristanna Loken and Warren Christie. (2010)

WEDNESDAY

Cabin Pressure, Channel 5, 3.10pm

A businessman is thrilled when his dreams of a fully automated plane come to fruition and he finally embarks on the maiden voyage. But the intervention of a vengeance-hungry former employee throws a spanner in the works, leaving the crew and passengers facing their doom. Disaster movie, starring Craig Sheffer and Rachel Hayward. (2001)



Syriana, Thursday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY

Syriana, ITV, 10.35pm

A web of intertwining stories reveals a deep seam of corruption within the global oil industry, including a CIA agent drawn into arms dealing and assassinations, an energy analyst determined to meet his company's agenda at all costs, and an unemployed oil worker driven into political extremism. Drama, starring an Oscar-winning George Clooney. (2005)

FRIDAY

The Boat That Rocked, ITV, 10.45pm

A host of eclectic DJs entertain 1960s Britain through a pirate radio station, broadcasting from a vessel in the North Sea. However, a high-ranking government official is determined to bring an end to the rogue outfit and the individuals responsible for its continued existence. Richard Curtis's comedy, starring Bill Nighy. (2009)

The 51st State, BBC1, 11.40pm

An American drug dealer decides to retire from a life of crime and plans to raise the necessary funds through one final sale in Liverpool. There he has to contend with crooked cops, a neo-Nazi gang and a hitwoman in the employ of his old boss. Action comedy, starring Samuel L. Jackson, Robert Carlyle, Emily Mortimer, Meat Loaf, Ricky Tomlinson, Sean Pertwee and Rhys Ifans. (2001)

Pick of the Week

Len looks to solve the mystery of his final case

Frank Gallagher is no more, but Channel 4's loss is certainly the Beeb's gain.

The fact that Shameless has now ended its long run means that David Threlfall, the man who breathed life into the patriarchal layabout, is now free to take the lead role in this four-part drama from Tony Basgallop, who also penned the acclaimed Inside Men.

What Remains also gives Threlfall a chance to put Gallagher behind him and show what a versatile actor he is.

"The whole idea of playing somebody very different after having played Frank for so long was a huge boost to my confidence," he claims. "There are, luckily, people out there who think: 'Oh he'd be interesting, let's see what he's going to come up with and if it works, great.'"

Certainly Detective Inspector Len Harper couldn't be less like the Chatsworth Estate's most notorious resident if he tried.

"He's very quiet," says Threlfall of his latest alter ego. "He's a good man. A quietly moral man is what I would

say, someone who has an empathy with the way we live.

Len's situation is that he lost his wife, about a year prior to the start of the story, from cancer. He's got a brother that's not very well, which gives an opportunity to soliloquise, if you like, to his brother about what he's thinking. It's very different from what I've done previously, which I require really to stave off any moments of boredom."

Len is about to tackle his final case before retirement. It's an investigation into the death of Melissa Young, whose body has been found hidden in the eaves of a flat recently occupied by parents-to-be Michael and Vidya – Melissa was discovered while they were investigating a leak in the roof.

The really weird thing about the case is that nobody had reported her missing; she vanished two years ago without, it seems, anybody noticing.

Harper knows he could round up his investigation in a matter of days, but instead, decides to delve deeper into Melissa's story, and discovers how she was linked to those living in

the building's other flats – often in remarkable ways.

"During the time the piece plays out I think you get to know all the characters that are involved in that particular block of flats, and what their backstories are, which come out very gently. It's a very gentle process," explains Threlfall.

Russell Tovey, Indira Varma and David Bamber are also among the outstanding cast, but it's the Manchester-born actor who holds the entire piece together. He's too modest to admit that; instead, he spends lots of time giving credit to his co-stars.

However, his real praise is reserved for Basgallop and the gripping story he's devised.

"It's a nice reminder that perhaps we should think about the hellskeller way we live these days, now and again," smiles Threlfall.

"I think the thing about the piece is that it is a whodunit but it's got a thriller quality about it. It's been beautifully and rhythmically handled, both in the way it looks and its pace. It's been beautifully written and directed."



David Threlfall stars in What Remains, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Horizon: Dinosaurs – The Hunt for Life BBC2, 9pm

One of the most impressive things about Jurassic Park is how the writer, Michael Crichton, managed to make such an outlandish prospect seem almost believable. After all, no one would ever be able to get actual DNA from dinosaurs... would they? Hoping to bring Hollywood fantasy to real life is palaeontologist Dr Mary Schweitzer, who actually found soft tissue and red blood cells inside the fossilised bones of a 68-million-year-old tyrannosaurus rex. Not only is her work completely revolutionising the scientific community's understanding of dinosaurs, but she also believes that she may have discovered traces of that crucial building block of life: DNA. It may be 20 years old, but Steven Spielberg's blockbuster movie has never felt closer.

Under the Dome Channel 5, 10pm

In last week's opening edition, fear and panic spread throughout Chester Mill's population thanks to the appearance of the mysterious dome, and there's more trauma on the way in the latest episode. Police chief Duke Perkins is dead, which leaves Chester's Mill without a natural leader – until councillor Big Jim Rennie steps into the breach. On the surface he appears to be a caring guy – but what nobody realises is that he and his cohort, Reverend Lester Coggins, are stockpiling propane. And when Coggins becomes trapped in a burning building, with no fire brigade inside the dome to help him, Big Jim seems only too keen to leave him to die...

TUESDAY

My Hero: Ben Miller on Tony Hancock BBC1, 10.35pm

It's hard to believe that Tony Hancock was only 44 when he died; he appears so much older than that – maybe the years of alcohol abuse and misery had taken their toll on his face. He's best known now for the TV version of the sitcom Hancock's Half Hour, but his reign at the top of the showbiz tree was a short one. By the mid-1960s, his personal and professional lives had begun to sour, and in 1968 he committed suicide in Australia. Nevertheless, he's regarded as a giant among British comedians, and Ben Miller is a huge fan. In this documentary, he profiles the peaks of his hero's accomplishments, as well as looking at the demons that haunted him.

WEDNESDAY Martin Luther King and the March on Washington BBC2, 9pm

On August 28, 1963, Dr Martin Luther King Jr delivered one of the most famous and inspiring speeches of the 20th century. But while the words 'I have a dream' may be familiar, just how much do you know about the event at which he was speaking? Well, you'll know a lot more after watching this stirring documentary, which marks the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, a mass demonstration for racial equality

and a watershed moment in the history of America's civil rights movement. Narrated by Denzel Washington, director John Akomfrah's film explores the context surrounding the rally, including the behind-the-scenes workers who made the March a reality.

THURSDAY Poaching Wars with Tom Hardy ITV, 9pm

In the 1930s there were almost five million elephants roaming free in Africa. In the 21st century, there are only around half a million – and rhino have fared no better. The

reason these mighty creatures' populations have been decimated is to sate wealthy humans' appetite for horn and ivory. In the latest episode, actor Tom Hardy visits a secret warehouse in Botswana which is storing thousands of elephant tusks before meeting Tshekedi Khama, the country's minister of environment, wildlife and tourism who tells him how his government are waging war against poachers. Tom also travels to Mozambique and Tanzania, but begins to realise he's finding more questions than answers when it comes to tackling the slaughter.

Poaching Wars with Tom Hardy, Thursday, ITV, 9pm

Burgled Channel 4, 9pm

It's not something we imagine our politicians are bragging about during trips to Brussels, but Britain is the most burgled country in the EU. Every year, 675,000 break-ins are reported to the police, which averages out at one every 47 seconds. Luckily, the nation's police aren't ready to give in and accept that being robbed is just a fact of life in 21st-century Britain. This Cutting Edge special follows officers in Leeds, one of the country's most burgled cities, to find out how they are trying to get the crime figures down. It's not easy, especially given severe cuts to the police force, but armed with state-of-the-art technology and some innovative crime prevention ideas, they are starting to see real results.

FRIDAY Big School BBC1, 9pm

Writer and star David Walliams described his new classroom comedy as 'Gavin & Stacey meets The Remains of the Day', which we're not entirely sure about so far – although there is certainly something charming and old-fashioned about his character's unrequited longing for fellow tutor Miss Postern (Catherine Tate). This week, she's tasked with running the draughts club and suggests teaming up with Mr Church's chess society. He's eager to please, of course, and invites her back to his place for a spot of Strictly and a chat – but he soon lives to regret his attempt at social networking. Meanwhile, a scandal looms when Mr Gunn is spotted in the company of a drug dealer.

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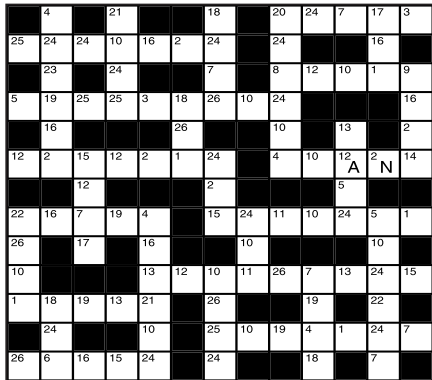
Puzzler

Brain Gym

No.235

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

D	C	N	J	S	L	T	A	X	Z	I	O	U
G	R	E	P	H	Y	Q	V	W	M	B	K	F

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

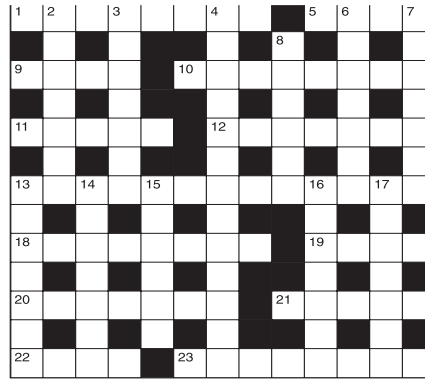
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Way over the mountains, presumably (4-4)
- Part of the Canibal Islands in Indonesia (4)
- A slight legato effect (4)
- Desert transport for moving houses (8)
- Enumerates the venues for the tournament (5)
- Calling for a taxi - when it is doing this in the winter? (7)
- A source of current attraction (7-6)
- Seen in sackcloth, a riotous libertine (8)
- The bearing of a man sounds parsimonious (4)
- Gasp about complete necklace (7)
- Prohibit nearly everything commonplace (5)
- Takes the fare (4)
- Scarcely incline to one in crafty setting (8)

Down

- Unfortunate disposition of estate showing malice (3-4)
- Eric gets involved with the non-conformist (7)
- Historically ill-timed (13)
- Nights associated with Scheherazade..... (7)
-showing imaginative perception in visual range (7)
- The greatest numbers will provide a guiding principle to the first letter (6)
- Surpass a natural phenomenon (7)
- Incorporated in a different text, but no longer in being (7)
- They provide capital adornments (6)
- Although he's associated with clubs and bars, he's in good physical shape! (7)
- As a pupil I make a raucous noise, one hears (3-4)



Quick Clues:

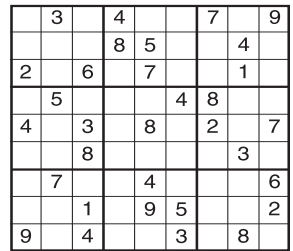
Across

- Crafty trick (8)
- Breeding farm (4)
- Employer (4)
- Incursion (8)
- Purloin (5)
- In the fashion (1,2,4)
- Thoughtfulness (13)
- Charm (8)
- Bird's home (4)
- View (7)
- Flaming (5)
- Ancient Roman garment (4)
- Protected (8)

Down

- A stew (7)
- Raids (7)
- Regaining health (13)
- N. African port (7)
- Dark cell (7)
- N. American country (6)
- Cigar (7)
- Nil (7)
- Sloping type (6)
- Stress (7)
- See (7)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	3	4	5	1	6	7	8	2
1	7	8	2	4	3	9	6	5
5	6	2	8	9	7	1	3	4
7	4	3	6	5	9	8	2	1
8	1	9	7	3	2	5	4	6
6	5	1	8	4	3	7	9	2
4	5	7	9	6	8	2	1	3
3	8	1	4	2	5	6	9	7
2	9	6	3	7	1	4	5	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Lassic; 4 Cloche; 9 Battle honours; 10 Uniform; 11 Ether; 12 Aglow; 14 Using; 18 Horde; 19 Steep; 21 Water-biscuits; 22 Paying; 23 Aligns. Down: 1 Labour; 2 Sitting pretty; 3 Igloo; 5 Lancets; 6 Caught napping; 7 Ensure; 8 Thumb; 13 Overrun; 15 Show up; 16 Astir; 17 Senses; 20 Excel. QUICK - Across: 1 Remark; 4 Erects; 9 Spring balance; 10 Loters; 11 Theme; 12 Again; 14 Adept; 18 Refit; 19 Luggage; 21 Plain-speaking; 22 Esteem; 23 Ledger. Down: 1 Result; 2 Marriage feast; 3 Range; 5 Related; 6 Contemplating; 7 Seeker; 8 Abuse; 13 Intense; 15 Triple; 16 Slope; 17 Beggar; 20 Grade.



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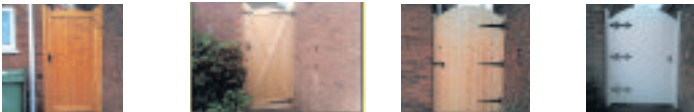
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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO
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A three-bed detached with no upward chain

A THREE-BEDROOM detached house in Besom Way, Cheslyn Hay, is on the market with no chain and priced at £189,995.

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, the property is close to local transport networks and amenities, with accommodation briefly comprising of hallway, lounge, dining room/playroom, guest WC, breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms - master en suite - and family bathroom.

It also benefits from gas central heating, uPVC double glazed windows, driveway with off road parking and enclosed rear garden.

On the ground floor the lounge, 15ft by 11ft 1in, has an Adam style fireplace with living flame gas fire while the dining room/playroom is 16ft 4in by 7ft 9in. The guest WC has a wash

hand basin and toilet, with the breakfast kitchen measuring 19ft 8in by 9ft 1in having a range of wall and base units, roll edge work surfaces, stainless steel sink with mixer taps, built in oven and hob with extractor hood, plumbing and space for automatic washing machine and patio doors to rear garden.

Patio

On the first floor the master bedroom has a range of built in wardrobes and an en suite with pedestal wash basin, shower cubicle and WC, with two more bedrooms and a bathroom with panelled bath, pedestal wash basin and WC.

Outside to the front is a driveway providing off road parking, with the rear garden having a paved patio area and lawn.

Call Webb's Estate Agents on 01543 424746 for further details or to arrange a viewing.



With a quiet cul-de-sac location, this house is priced at £189,995

Semi is near to schools



The house in Magness Crescent is on the market for offers around £124,950

A WELL-PRESENTED three bedroom semi-detached home in Willenhall is on the market priced at £124,950.

The property in Magness Crescent is close to local schools, amenities and shops with accommodation briefly comprising of large entrance hallway, lounge incorporating dining room with sliding patio doors to rear garden and large, newly fitted kitchen.

On the first floor is a master bedroom, two further good sized bedrooms and family bathroom. There is gas central heating, uPVC double glazing, driveway with off road parking for two vehicles and enclosed rear garden with patio area.

Call the agent home point on 01902 766388 for further details.



The rear garden is mainly laid to lawn with a patio area for seating

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Lot 1 116 - 118 Dregthorn Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 37 56 Tame Road, Witton, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 74 36 Port Street, Evesham, Worcestershire	Commercial Investment
Lot 2 34 Canterbury Road, Penn, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 38 20 Madin Road, Tipton, West Midlands	Residential Vacant	Lot 75 405 Chester Road, Wyde Green, Sutton Coldfield	Residential Vacant
Lot 3 264 All Saints Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 39 The Crown, East End, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire	Commercial Vacant	Lot 76 61 Mason Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 4 297 Queslett Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 40 64 Etruria Vale Road, Stoke on Trent	Commercial Vacant	Lot 77 164 Hawthorn Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 5 Yew Tree Bar, Stoney Lane, Yardley, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 41 140 Sandon Road, Stafford	Residential Vacant	Lot 78 Flat 8 Queenswood House, Brandwood Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 6 193 Gibbins Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 42 Fox & Hounds, Banbury Road, Charwelton, Daventry	Commercial Vacant	Lot 79 The Kings Head Inn, 15 Mill Street, Brierley Hill	Commercial Investment
Lot 7 Fairway House, 195 St Bernards Road, Solihull	Residential Vacant	Lot 43 17A Delphside, Broseley, Telford	Commercial Vacant	Lot 80 33 Kenelm Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 8 24 Market Street, Kettering, Northamptonshire	Commercial Investment	Lot 44 49 Rooker Avenue, Wolverhampton	Commercial Vacant	Lot 81 St Andrews Church, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury	Commercial Vacant
Lot 9 Mary Way Cottage, 6 St Marys Lane, Much Wenlock, Shropshire	Residential Vacant	Lot 45 197 Lowe Avenue, Darlaston, West Midlands	Residential Vacant	Lot 82 652 Pershore Road, Selly Park, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 10 The Red Hill Tavern, Coventry Road, Yardley, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 46 Dudley Road Service Station, 367 Dudley Road, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 83 19 Hereward Rise, Halesowen, West Midlands	Commercial Investment
Lot 11 Land at King Charles Avenue, Walsall	Land	Lot 47 13 Green Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant	Lot 84 Units 5, 6 & 7 Cheston Industrial Estate, Cheston Road, Nechells, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 12 Land at Wilkes Avenue, Walsall	Land	Lot 48 Various Plots - Luton & Redhill	Land	Lot 85 3 Birmingham Street, Dudley	Commercial Vacant / Development / Redevelopment Opportunity
Lot 13 5 Wolverton Road, Snitterfield, Stratford-upon-Avon	Residential Vacant	Lot 49 The Phoenix, 45 St Johns Street, Bedford	Commercial Vacant	Lot 86 7 Tranwell Close, Pendeford, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 14 22 Orslov Walk, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 50 White Lodge, 64 Albert Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 87 310 Tessall Lane, Northfield, Birmingham	Commercial Investment
Lot 15 65 Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove	Residential Vacant	Lot 51 6 Milford Avenue, Balsall Heath, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 88 89 Holly Lane, Smethwick, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 16 67 Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove	Residential Vacant	Lot 52 Land at Ashes Road, Tipton, Oldbury	Land	Lot 89 207 Aldershaw Road, Yardley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 17 32 Penryn Road, Walsall	Residential Vacant	Lot 53 28 Middleton Road, Kidderminster	Residential Vacant	Lot 90 478 Kingsbury Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 18 12 St Kilda's Road, Salfley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 54 22 Highgate Square, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 91 29 Belle Walk, Moseley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 18A 6 The Triangle, Bacchus Road, Winson Green, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 55 49 Brierley, Beconview Road, West Bromwich	Residential Investment	Lot 92 43 Parkfield Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 19 36 George Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 56 134 Camberley, Beconview Road, West Bromwich	Residential Investment	Lot 93 40 Rivendell Court, 1051 Stratford Road, Hall Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 20 The Royal Oak, Bridgford, Carlton, Nr Bedford	Commercial Vacant	Lot 57 Oxford Villas, 106 Westminster Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 94 Ariba, 98A Robert Street, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 21 140 Gracemere Crescent, Hall Green, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 58 182 Maryland Avenue, Hodge Hill, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 95 15 Endwood Court, Handsworth Wood Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 22 The Foresters Arms, 3 Wolverton Road, Stoney Stratford, Milton Keynes	Commercial Vacant	Lot 59 202 Coleman Street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton	Land	Lot 96 28 Cross Street, Willenhall	Commercial Vacant
Lot 23 The Crown Inn, Main Street, Tipton, West Midlands	Commercial Vacant	Lot 60 8 Nevill Grove, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 97 14A, B, C & D Upper Lichfield Street, Willenhall	Residential Investment
Lot 24 69 Wimpers Way, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 61 169 Cole Valley Road, Hall Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 98 Land R/o 36 - 38 Market Street, Handesford	Land
Lot 25 Land of Former Nursery & Adj. Land off Rowley View / Margaret Road / Holyhead Road, Moxley	Land	Lot 62 62 Fowlmere Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 99 71 York Crescent, Wollaston, Stourbridge	Residential Vacant
Lot 26 9 Pinfold Street, Darlaston, West Midlands	Commercial Vacant	Lot 63 1 Knowle Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 100 33 Marsh Lane, West Bromwich	Residential Vacant
Lot 27 The Beer Engine, 35 Far Gosford Street, Coventry	SOLD PRIOR Commercial Vacant	Lot 64 162 Tyburn Road, Erdington, Birmingham	SOLD PRIOR Residential Vacant	Lot 101 27 Phillip Road, Tipton, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 28 Saracens Head, Tamworth Road, Corley Ash, Coventry	Commercial Vacant	Lot 65 249 Mary Vale Road, Bourville, Birmingham	Commercial Investment	Lot 102 150 Taylor Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 29 Land at Berkeley Close, Walsall	Land	Lot 66 6 Beaconsfield Road, Parkfields, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 103 94 Mervale Road, Smethwick, West Midlands	Ground Rent
Lot 30 Land at Churchill Road, Walsall	Land	Lot 67 250 Colehill Heath Road, Marston Green, Birmingham	Development / Redevelopment Opportunity	Lot 104 22 Malcolm Court, Lower Vauxhall Street, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 31 The Tavern, 33 Greengate Street, Stafford	Commercial Vacant	Lot 68 Land at Hospital Lane, Wolverhampton	Land	Lot 105 44 Gracemere Crescent, Hall Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 32 The Red Lion, Billington Lane, Derrington, Stafford	Commercial Vacant	Lot 69 131 Senneleys Park Road, Northfield, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 106 27 Larches Lane, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 33 77 Highfield Road, Tipton, West Midlands	Residential Vacant	Lot 70 Pelsall Stop, Adj. Friar Bridge, Pelsall, Walsall	Land	Lot 107 49A Ward Street, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 34 13 Higham Road, Rushmore, Northamptonshire	Land	Lot 71 15 Ormsby Court, 9 Richmond Hill Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 108 50 Willes Road, Winson Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 35 2 Dorrington Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 72 217 Sandwell Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant		
Lot 36 Land at Gunthorpe, Nottinghamshire	Agricultural Land	Lot 73 177 Church Hill Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant		



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NEW £450pcm Neath Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A well presented 2 bed mid terraced property • 1 Spacious reception room • A modern fitted kitchen • A Pleasant family bathroom • Gas central heating and Double glazing • Rear garden, EPC Rating D 	£375pcm Reeves Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A superb 1 bed 1st floor apartment • Good size open planned lounge • Kitchen and dining area with cooker and hob • Large family bathroom with corner bath and shower • Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing • DSS accepted no deposit subject to conditions 	£650 pcm Chapel Street, Blakenhall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 4 bed semi detached property • 1 spacious reception room • Fitted kitchen/diner with cooker • Upstairs family bathroom with shower • Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing • Guest WC DSS accepted EPC rating G 	£650 pcm Asterway, Tamebridge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bed modern detached property • Spacious open plan lounge/dining • Fitted Kitchen with cooker • Master en-suite and WC • Gas central heating and Double glazing • Garage, Driveway EPC rating C 	£595 pcm Slaney Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modernised 4 bed mid terrace • Through lounge and rear reception • Modern fitted kitchen with cooker • Downstairs family bathroom • Gas Central heating throughout • DSS accepted EPC rating D 	£575 pcm Follyhouse Lane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Re-furnished 3 bed semi • 2 spacious reception rooms • Modern fitted kitchen with cooker • Downstairs bathroom with shower • Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing • Driveway EPC rating D
£500 pcm Broadstone Avenue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modernised 2 bed ground floor flat • A good size reception room • New fitted kitchen with cooker/hob • A pleasant bathroom with shower • Gas central heating and Double glazing • Dss accepted, EPC rating C 	£475 pcm Darlaston Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An excellent 3 bed end terrace • A spacious lounge • Large modern kitchen diner with cooker • Gas central heating and Double glazing • Shared garden, comes part furnished • EPC rating E 	£450 pcm St Georges Court, Walsall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Superb 1 bed 2nd floor apartment • Open planned lounge/kitchen area • Modern fitted kitchen with cooker • Pleasant family bathroom • Parking space and views of the town • DSS accepted 	£450 pcm Lord Street, Palfrey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A re-decorated 2 double bed end terrace • 2 Spacious reception rooms • A modern fitted kitchen with cooker • Upstairs family bathroom with shower • Gas central heating and Double glazing • DSS accepted EPC rating E 	£450 pcm West Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fully refurbished 2bed mid terrace • 2 Spacious reception rooms • A good size modern fitted kitchen • Gas central heating and Double glazing • Enclosed rear garden and Dss accepted • EPC rating E 	£450 pcm Redhouse Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A superb 2 bed mid terrace property • 2 spacious reception rooms • Modern fitted kitchen with cooker • Downstairs family bathroom with shower • Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing • DSS accepted EPC rating C
£395 pcm Tudor House <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Bed first floor apartment • Town centre location • Spacious lounge • Modern fitted kitchen • Modern bathroom • Dss accepted EPC rating C 	£395 pcm Mellish Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A superb 1 bed 1st floor apartment • 1 spacious through lounge • Modern fitted kitchen with cooker • Family bathroom with electric shower • Allocated parking space • Secure intercom system EPC rating D 	£375 pcm Parker Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A re-furnished 1 bed 1st floor apartment • 1 spacious reception room • Modern fitted kitchen • Good size family bathroom • Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing • DSS accepted EPC rating G 	£360 pcm Church Street, Darlaston <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 1 bed 1st floor apartment • 1 Good size reception room • Modern fitted kitchen with cooker • Family bathroom with shower • Gas central heating • DSS accepted 	£350 pcm Caldmore Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 1 bed duplex apartment • 1 spacious reception room • Modern fitted kitchen with cooker • Pleasant family bathroom • Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing • DSS accepted EPC rating D 	£325pcm Bradford Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A refurbished studio apartment • 1 spacious lounge/bedroom area • Brand new fitted kitchen with cooker • Modern bathroom with shower • Gas central heating and Double glazing • Town centre location
£300 pcm Church Street, Darlaston <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A splendid 2nd floor studio apartment • Spacious living area • Modern fitted kitchen with appliances • Gas central heating throughout • Fully re-furnished, DSS accepted • EPC rating C 	£320 pcm Thomas Mews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 bedroom ground floor apartment • One spacious living room • Modern fitted kitchen • Family bathroom with white suite • Gas central heating throughout • Town centre location, EPC rating E 	£375 pcm Arboretum Road, Walsall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A superb 1 bed ground floor apartment • 1 spacious reception room • Modern fitted kitchen with cooker • Bathroom with separate shower cubicle • Gas Central Heating throughout • DSS accepted EPC rating F 	£475 pcm Terret Close <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern 2 bed ground floor apartment • Open planned lounge / kitchen • Modern fitted kitchen with cooker • Pleasant family bathroom • Master En-Suite shower room • EPC rating C 	£500 pcm Loriners Grove <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern 2 bed 1st floor apartment • 1 spacious reception room • Modern fitted kitchen with integral appliances • Stylish family bathroom • Master En-Suite shower room • Secure allocated parking EPC rating B 	£325 pcm Ablewell Street, Walsall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 2nd floor apartment • 1 bedrooms divided by opening doors • 1 spacious lounge • Pleasant family bathroom • Modern fitted Kitchen • Single glazed and gas central heating

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Well Presented Two Bedroom End Town House. Having Porch, Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Conservatory, Family Bathroom, Double Glazing And Electric Storage Heaters. IDEAL FTB Or BTL

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CONSORT DRIVE, DARLASTON

Two Bedroom Mid Town House Comprising Of Spacious Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Enclosed Rear Garden. Great First Time Buy!

£92,500



DIBBLE CLOSE, WILLENHALL

Well Presented Three Bed Mid Town House Having Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Kitchen Diner, Family Bathroom, Separate W.C., C/Heating, D/Glazing, Parking To The Rear. Ideal FTB Or Buy To Let.

£94,500



DIBBLE CLOSE, WILLENHALL

Well Presented Three Bedroom Mid Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Spacious Kitchen, Lounge, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Separate W.C., Modern Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Enclosed Rear Garden.

£95,000



BLOXWICH RD, LEAMORE

Spacious Two Bed Semi Detached Having Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms With Fitted Wardrobes, Refitted Bathroom, D/Glazing, Shower, D/Glazing, C/Heating & Off Road Parking.

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WREXHAM AVENUE, WILLENHALL

Well Presented Semi-Detached Property Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Detached Garage, Brick Storage Outbuilding, Front & Rear Gardens, Cul-De-Sac Location.

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ST CHADS ROAD, BILSTON

Extended Two Bed Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining/Utility Area, Wet Room, C/Heating, Majority D/Glazing, Off Road Parking, Front And Rear Gardens. Ideal Investment. NO CHAIN.

£112,500



BENTLEY LANE, WILLENHALL

Modern Refurbished Three Bed Semi Having Lounge, Stylish Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating And Landscaped Garden. MUST VIEW.

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Well Presented Characterful Detached Property Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Cellar, D/Glazing, C/Heating & Off Road Parking. MUST VIEW.

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£139,995



MANOR FARM DRIVE, WILLENHALL

Extended Four Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility, Ground Floor W.C., Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Integral Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden. Accessed Via A Private Driveway.

£159,995



SOMERFORD CL, CHESLYN HAY

Well Presented & Spacious Four Bed Semi Having Porch, Spacious Hallway, Lounge, Ground Floor W.C., Kitchen/Diner, Modern Refitted Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Integral Garage, Store Area & Block Paved Driveway.

£160,000



ABERFORD CLOSE, WILLENHALL

Five Bed Semi Detached Having Lounge, Spacious Kitchen, Dining Room, Family Bathroom, Separate Shower Room, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Integral Garage, Front & Rear Gardens. Cul-De-Sac Location.

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ESSINGTON RD, ESSINGTON

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£189,995



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Heavily Extended Three/Four Bed Semi Having Two Reception Rooms, Spacious Kitchen/Diner, Separate Utility, Ground Floor W.C., Master Bedroom With Separate Dressing Room, Family Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath & Separate Shower, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Detached Games Room, Driveway.

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Superb Three Bedroom Detached Dormer Bungalow Comprising Of Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Ground Floor Shower Room, Family Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath C/Heating, D/Glazing, Rear Garden, Garage & Driveway.

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£500 PCM



SPROAT AVENUE, DARLASTON

Three Bed Property Comprises Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Ground Floor Bathroom, Three Well Proportioned Bedrooms, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garden To The Fore And A Large Rear Garden

£500 PCM



LICHFIELD ROAD, WEDNESFIELD

Three Bed Terraced Property Comprises Of Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom With Shower, D/Glazing And C/Heating Throughout, Good Sized Rear Garden.

£500 PCM



PERCH ROAD, WALSALL

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Spacious Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow Comprising Of Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Double Bedrooms, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Good Sized Driveway, Detached Garage And A Large Rear Garden

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Three Bed Townhouse Comprises Of Entrance Hallway, Shower Room, Three Bedrooms, Kitchen Diner, Lounge, Off Road Parking, Integral Garage And A Private Rear Garden

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Three Bed Semi On The Popular Summer Hayes Estate Having Entrance Hallway, Spacious Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom, Majority UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Detached Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway.

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WILLENHALL STREET, DARLASTON

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● Double Glazing●Gas Central Heating

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£525 PCM



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**Willenhall
Argyll Court**
● Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
● Lounge/Diner●Fitted Kitchen
● Master Bedroom with Built-In Wardrobes
● Newly Fitted Shower Room
● Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£515 PCM



**Bloxwich
Stuart Street**
● Three Bedroom End-Terrace
● Two Reception Rooms●Kitchen
● Bathroom●Separate W.C.
● Front & Rear Gardens●Central Heating
● DHSS Accepted, No Pets or Smokers

£500 PCM



**Walsall
Manorhouse Close**
● Two Bed Apartment
● Lounge●Fitted Kitchen●Bathroom
● Double Glazing●Heating
● Allocated Parking
● Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£495 PCM



**Bloxwich
Millfield Avenue**
● Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Lounge●Kitchen/Diner
● Utility●Ground Floor W.C.
● Family Bathroom●Front & Rear Gardens
● DHSS Accepted

£495 PCM



**Walsall
Lord Street**
● Three Bedroom Semi Detached
● Lounge●Dining Room●Kitchen
● Family Bathroom
● Front and Rear Gardens
● DHSS ACCEPTED

£495 PCM



**Bloxwich
Astbury Close**
● Two Bedroom Terrace
● One Reception room
● Kitchen●Bathroom●Gas Central Heating
● Double Glazing●Off Road Parking
● Sorry No DHSS

£495 PCM



**Willenhall
Kingfisher Court**
● Two Bed Apartment
● Lounge●Fitted Kitchen●Bathroom
● D.Glazing●Central Heating
● Off Road Parking
● Sorry No DHSS

£475 PCM



**Walsall
Bloxwich Lane**
● Extended Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Lounge●Large Dining Room
● Extended kitchen●Family Bathroom
● Front & Rear Gardens
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

£475



**Bloxwich
Bagnall Street**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
● Downstairs Toilet
● Bathroom●Front & Rear Gardens
● Driveway●No Pets●DHSS Accepted

£475 PCM



**Walsall
Kenilworth Crescent**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
● Downstairs Toilet
● Bathroom●Front & Rear Gardens
● Driveway●No Pets●DHSS Accepted

£475 PCM



**Walker Road
Guild Court**
● Two Bedroom Apartments
● Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
● Bathroom●Communal Grounds
● Gas Central Heating●Double Glazing
● Allocated Parking●DHSS Accepted

From £450 PCM



**Walsall
Lewis Street**
● Two Bedroom Terrace
● Two Reception Rooms
● Downstairs Bathroom
● Double Glazing●Central Heating
● Rear Garden and Courtyard

£450 PCM



**Walsall
Old Pleck Road**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
● Downstairs W.C.
● Family Bathroom●Double Glazing
● Gas Central Heating●DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



**Walsall
Lichfield Road**
● Two Bedroom 2nd Floor Flat
● Entrance Hallway●Lounge
● Fitted Kitchen●Family Bathroom
● Electric Storage Heating
● Double Glazing●Sorry No DHSS, Pets

£450 PCM



**Bloxwich
May Street**
● Three Bedroom Terraced Property
● Two Reception Rooms●Fitted Kitchen
● Family Bathroom●Rear Garden
● Gas Central Heating●DHSS Accepted
● Close to Main Bus Routes to Walsall

£450 PCM



**Bloxwich
Holmeadow Avenue**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
● Downstairs WC●Family Bathroom
● Bathroom●Front & Rear Gardens
● Double Glazing●DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



**Walsall
Ashdown Grove**
● Two Bedroom Apartment
● Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
● Bathroom●Gas Central Heating
● Double Glazing●Allocated Parking
● Sorry No DHSS

£440 PCM



**Walsall
Tanners Court**
● One Bed Apartment
● Lounge●Fitted kitchen
● Security entrance
● Allocated parking
● Sorry No DHSS

£425 PCM



**Walsall
Prince Street**
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Through Lounge/Diner
● Kitchen●Family Bathroom
● Rear Garden●Gas Central Heating
● DHSS Accepted

£425 PCM



**Bloxwich
Marton Court**
● One & Two Bed Apartments
● Lounge●Fitted kitchen
● Bathroom with Shower
● Double Glazing & Electric Heating
● DHSS Accepted

From £400 PCM



**Bloxwich
Rockingham Close**
● Two Bedroom Flats
● Communal Entrance
● Hallway●Lounge●Kitchen
● Allocated Parking in Courtyard
● Bathroom●DHSS Accepted

£400 PCM



**Bloxwich
Foster Street**
● 1/2 A MONTH RENT FREE
● Two Bedroom Terrace
● Two Reception Rooms
● Bathroom
● Gas Central Heating
● Double Glazing
● Rear Garden
● DHSS Accepted

£400 PCM



**Walsall
Bloxwich Road**
● One & Two Bedroom Flats
● Lounge●Kitchen
● Off Road Parking
● Gas Central Heating
● DHSS Accepted

From £380 PCM



**Walsall
Tudor House**
● One Bedroom Apartment
● Lounge●Bathroom
● Fitted kitchen with appliances
● Double glazing
● Central heating●Sorry No DHSS

£375 PCM



**Bloxwich
Harrison Street**
● Two Bedroom Flat
● Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
● Double Glazing
● Electric heating
● DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM



**Bloxwich
Field Road**
● One Bedroom Flat
● Lounge●Bathroom
● Central Heating
● Double Glazing
● Sorry No DHSS

£375 PCM



**Bloxwich
Parker Street**
● One Bedroom Flats
● Lounge●Kitchen
● Bathroom
● Central Heating
● DHSS Accepted

£370 PCM

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FEATURED PROPERTY



**WILLENHALL
YALE ROAD**

- Superbly Appointed Modern Detached Property
- Spacious Lounge with Dining Area • Fitted Kitchen • Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom • En-Suite Shower Room • Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating • Sitting Room/Dining Room
- Rear Gardens • Driveway to the Fore • Energy Rating 'C'

£172,500

SHOW HOME OPEN WEEKEND



**SHORT HEATH
POOLES LANE**

- OPEN ON SAT 24TH, SUN 25TH & MON 26TH AUG 11 - 5 PM
- 1/3 of the site is now SSTC!!
- Brand New Detached Residences
- Lounge • Dining Room
- Superb Kitchen • Energy TBC
- 4 Bedrooms • En-suite • Bathroom
- Garage, Drive • Rear Gardens

£209,950

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



**SHORT HEATH
BLOXWICH ROAD NORTH**

- Exceptional Modern Style Semi Detached Property
- Through Lounge/Dining Room • Breakfast Kitchen & Utility/wc
- Three Superb Double Bedrooms • Large Driveway & Front Gardens
- Refitted Luxury Bathroom • Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Garage & Carport • Rear Gardens • No Chain • Energy Rating 'D'

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £185,000

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on 01902 631151



**WILLENHALL
YALE ROAD**

- Superb Modern detached residence
- Four bedrooms
- Two reception • Breakfast kitchen
- Gas CH • Double glaz
- 2 en-suites • Bathroom • Garden • Garage • Energy 'D'

£250,000



**COPPICE FARM
ULSWATER ROAD**

- Impressive Detached Residence on Corner Plot
- Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory • Energy Rating 'D'
- Re-Fitted Kitchen & Utility • WC
- Five Bedrooms • Re-Fitted Bathroom • En-Suite Shower Room, Wet Room
- Delightful Landscaped Rear Gardens • Large Paved Driveway

£235,000



**WILLENHALL
PRINCETHORPE ROAD**

- Modern detached
- 3 bedrooms • En-suite & Bathroom
- Lounge & Dining room • Kitchen
- Conservatory • Gas CH
- Garage, Drive • Gardens • Double Glaz • Energy 'C'

£199,950



**SUMMER HAYES
FARBROOK WAY**

- Superb Extended Much Improved Detached Property • No Upward Chain
- Hall • Spacious Lounge • Re-Fitted Dining Kitchen • Conservatory
- Three Good Size Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating • Majority Double Glazing • Energy Rating 'E'
- Pleasant Rear Gardens • Garage • Utility with WC • Driveway

£179,000



**WILLENHALL
LITTLE ISLAND DRIVE**

- Superb Well Appointed Three Storey Recently Built Semi Detached
- Lounge with Juliet Balcony • Excellent Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom • En-Suite Shower Room
- Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing • Energy Rating 'C'
- Garage & Driveway • Delightful Rear Gardens

£154,950



**BENTLEY
SILVERSTONE CLOSE**

- Detached Property in Cul De Sac Location • No Upward Chain
- Four Bedrooms • Bathroom • Energy Rating 'D'
- Three Reception Rooms • Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing
- Garage • Driveway • Rear Gardens

£154,950



**BENTLEY
DURSLEY CLOSE**

- Pleasantly Appointed Detached Property, No Upward Chain
- Lounge • Re-Fitted Kitchen • Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom • Energy Rating 'D'
- Double Length Garage • Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating • Majority Double Glazing

£149,995



**COPPICE FARM
SANDALWOOD CLOSE**

- Improved Semi Detached • Energy Rating 'D'
- Lounge • Re-Fitted Kitchen • Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing
- Garage • Drive • Pleasant Rear Gardens

NOW OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £130,000



**WILLENHALL
YALE ROAD**

- Well presented modern mid town house property in cul-de-sac location
- Two double bedrooms • Lounge with dining area • Fitted kitchen
- WC/utility • Bathroom • ENERGY RATING 'C'
- Pleasant rear garden • Driveway
- Gas central heating • Double glazing • No chain

OFFERS ABOVE £115,000



**DARLASTON
ST GEORGE'S CLOSE**

- Well Presented & Improved Mid Town House
- Hall with WC • Large Lounge • Spacious Dining Kitchen
- Three Good Size Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Double Glazing • Part Gas Central Heating
- Car Port • Rear Gardens • Energy Rating 'D'

OFFERS OVER £110,000



**WILLENHALL
HILL ROAD**

- Extended three bedroom property
- Two Reception rooms • Fitted breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom • Garage & driveway
- Gas CH • Double glazing
- Energy Rating 'E'

NOW £105,000



**WILLENHALL
SQUIRES GROVE**

- Modern Coach House apartment
- Lounge, Dining Area • Energy 'C' • Fitted Kitchen
- Two excellent size bedrooms • Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing
- Gm/office/converted garage • Parking

£105,000 NO CHAIN



**NEW INVENTION
WYCHBOLD CLOSE**

- Modern Style End Town House • ENERGY RATING 'D'
- Three Good Size Bedrooms • Family Bathroom
- Lounge • 18ft Refitted Dining Kitchen/Diner
- Spiv Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating System
- Enclosed Rear Garden • Command Parking

£102,000



**NEW INVENTION
SQUIRES GROVE**

- Well Presented Modern Ground Floor Apartment
- Hall • Lounge • Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms • En-Suite Shower Room
- Bathroom • Double Glazing • Energy Rating 'D'
- Garage • Allocated Parking Space

£99,950



**BENTLEY
WREXHAM AVENUE**

- Extended Traditional Style Semi Detached • No Chain
- Energy 'E' • Two Reception
- Fitted Kitchen • 3 Bedrooms
- Gas CH • Double Glazing
- Gas central heating • Double glazing • No chain

£95,000



**WILLENHALL
VICTORIA STREET**

- Much Improved Period Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- 2 Reception • Newly Fitted Kitchen • Re Fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing and Gas CH
- No Chain • Energy 'D'

£87,500



**WILLENHALL
RUSSEL STREET**

- Superb Second Floor Apartment
- Lounge with Dining Area
- Fitted Kitchen • Energy 'C'
- Two Excellent Bedrooms • Loft
- Two Parking Spaces • No Chain • Gas CH, Double Glaz

£87,000



**DARLASTON
PINFOLD STREET**

- One bed ground floor flat in convenient location
- Lounge • Kitchen • Shower Room
- Gas CH • D/glazing
- Command gardens & parking
- Energy Rating 'D'

£59,995 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



**WILLENHALL
RAVENSBOROUGH GROVE**

- Excellent Modern Style Semi Detached Property
- Lounge • Dining Kitchen • ENERGY 'D'
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Garage and Driveway • Pleasant Rear Garden
- Utility/Workshop • Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing

£130,000 offers over



**BENTLEY
WREXHAM AVENUE**

- Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached Property
- Spacious Lounge • Impressive Re-Fitted Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms • Luxury Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Delightful Rear Gardens • Driveway • Energy Rating 'E'
- Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazing

OFFERS OVER £120,000



**WILLENHALL
TILDESLEY DRIVE**

- Improved Mid Terrace Property • Spacious Lounge with Dining Area
- Two Bedrooms • Refitted Kitchen • Bathroom
- Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating • Driveway
- Pleasant Landscaped Rear Garden
- Energy Rating 'C'

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £102,000

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MANAGER'S CHOICE



**WILLENHALL
AMPLEFORTH DRIVE**

- Impressive Modern Executive Detached Residence • No Upward Chain
- Large Lounge • Dining Room • Well Appointed Dining Kitchen
- Four Bedrooms • Master with Dressing Area and En-Suite
- Garage & Driveway • Rear Gardens • ENERGY RATING C
- Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing

Offers In Excess Of £220,000

SHOW HOME OPEN WEEKEND



**SHORT HEATH
POOLES LANE**

- OPEN ON SAT 24TH, SUN 25TH & MON 26TH AUGUST 11 - 5 PM
1/3 of the site is now SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT!!
- Brand New Detached Residence • Lounge/dining room, Breakfast kitchen
 - Four Good Size Bedrooms • Bathroom & En-suite • Energy TBC
 - Gas Central Heating, Double glazing • Garage, Drive • Rear Gardens

Prices From £209,950

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



**BENTLEY
WILKES AVENUE**

- Spacious Traditional Double Fronted Semi Detached
- Lounge • Dining Room • Breakfast Kitchen • Utility
- Three Good Size Bedrooms • Bathroom • ENERGY RATING TBC
- Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazing
- Pleasant Rear Gardens • Driveway & Garage

£147,000

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**THE MANOR
JAMES STREET**

- Superb Detached Property • Prime Location • No Upward Chain
- 4 Bedrooms • Bathroom • En-Suite Shower Room
- Lounge • Impressive Dining Kitchen
- Garage & Driveway • Energy rating D
- Gas CH • Double Glazing

£184,995



**WILLENHALL
STROUD AVENUE**

- Much Improved Semi Detached • Popular Location
- Well Presented Lounge • Energy rating D
- Superb Re-Fitted Kitchen & Utility
- Three Bedrooms • Re-Fitted Shower Room
- Garage & Rear Gardens

£150,000



**PORTOBELLO
WAITE ROAD**

- Extended Improved Traditional Detached
- Three Bedrooms • Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge • Dining Room • Breakfast Kitchen
- Gas CH • Double Glazing • Driveway
- Pleasant Rear Gardens • Energy Rating TBC

£146,000



**WILLENHALL
ASHMORE LAKE ROAD**

- Traditional Bay Fronted Detached Property • No Chain
- Lounge & Dining Room • Kitchen • Energy Rating F
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Large Rear Gardens • Driveway

£130,000



**WILLENHALL
LINCOLN AVENUE**

- Traditional Semi Detached Property • Popular Location
- Lounge • Conservatory • Energy TBC
- Open Plan Dining Room • Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms • En-Suite Shower Room • Bathroom
- Driveway • Rear Gardens • Double Glazing • Gas CH

£129,950



**WILLENHALL
ASHMORE LAKE ROAD**

- Extended Traditional Semi Detached • No Upward Chain
- Spacious Lounge • Dining Room • Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Delightful Rear Gardens
- Garage & Driveway • ENERGY RATING TBC

£115,000



**THE MANOR, WILLENHALL
THOMPSON STREET**

- Magnificent Victorian detached residence in prestigious location
- Six superb bedrooms • Drawing room, sitting room & dining room
- Reception hall, breakfast kitchen & utility • Ground floor shower room
- Upstairs bathroom • Delightful rear gardens • Part double glazing
- Part gas central heating • Energy Rating 'E' • No Chain

£275,000



**COPPICE FARM
COPPICE FARM WAY**

- Exceptional Semi Detached Residence • No Chain
- Five Reception Rooms • Kitchen & Utility
- Five Bedrooms • Re-Fitted En-Suite • Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Driveway & Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing • Energy Rating 'D'

NOW £233,000



**WILLENHALL
BIRCH COPPICE GARDENS**

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached Property in Cul-de-Sac Location
- Three Bedrooms • Gas CH/Heating • UPVC CH Glazing • Spacious Lounge
- Generous Plot with Rear & Side Gardens • Downstairs WC
- UPVC Double Glazed Conservatory & Laundry Room • Garage & Parking
- Established Rear Garden with Garden Pond • UPVC Rating 'E'

£139,950



**OFF STROUD AVENUE, WILLENHALL
GRANBOURNE AVENUE**

- Modern Style Semi Detached Property • Lounge Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms • Shower Room • UPVC Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating • Endowed Rear Gardens • Block Paved Driveway
- Detached Garage • No Upward Chain
- Energy Rating TBC

£127,500



**WILLENHALL
BAYNTON ROAD**

- Modern Style End Terrace Property • No Upward Chain
- Hall • Lounge • Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom • Energy Rating 'D'
- Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazing
- Garage • Driveway • Rear Gardens

£119,950



**WILLENHALL
WALSALL ROAD**

- Modern Three Storey End Town House with No Upward Chain
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom • Energy Rating 'C'
- Lounge • Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating
- Garage • Rear Gardens

£119,950



**WILLENHALL
FIBBERSLEY BANK**

- Modern Semi Detached Property in Cul-de-Sac Location
- Two Bedrooms • Lounge • Dining Kitchen
- Bathroom • Majority Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Parking • Energy Rating 'C'

£115,000 NO CHAIN



**WILLENHALL
YALE ROAD**

- Spacious Ground Floor Apartment
- Popular Development • Large Lounge & Dining Area • Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms • Re-Fitted Bathrooms • Bathroom
- Allocated Parking • Double Glazing • Central Heating
- Energy Rating 'D'

£109,950 NO CHAIN



**PORTOBELLO
EVANS STREET**

- Traditional Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge • Refitted Dining Kitchen
- Refitted Bathroom • Central Heating
- Driveway • No Chain • Gas CH • Double Glaz • Energy 'D'

£105,000



**WILLENHALL
GOUGH STREET**

- Mid Terrace Property • No Chain
- Spacious Lounge • Re-Fitted Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms • Re-Fitted Shower Room
- Double Glazing • Energy rating 'F'
- Driveway & Gardens

£77,000



**WILLENHALL
PARK AVENUE**

- Mid Terrace Property • No Chain
- Lounge • Fitted Kitchen • Ground Floor Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms • Energy rating 'D'
- Off Road Parking • Large Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating

Offers In Excess Of £70,000



**WILLENHALL
COTSWOLD GROVE**

- Ground Floor Flat in Popular Location
- Over 55's • Lounge, Kitchen
- One Bedroom • Bathroom
- Double Glazing, Storage Heating
- No Chain • Energy Rating 'C'

£47,950 for 70% SHARED OWNERSHIP



**BENTLEY, WALSALL
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD WEST**

- Individually Designed Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge & Dining Kitchen
- Part Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating
- 40ft Garage • No Chain • Energy Rating 'D'

£215,000



**WILLENHALL
LONGWOOD RISE**

- Spacious Modern Style Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms • Lounge • Dining Kitchen • Conservatory
- Refitted Shower Room • Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating
- 20ft Games Room/Bedroom 4 with En-suite
- Driveway • Rear Garden • Energy Rating 'D'

£145,000



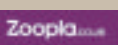
**BENTLEY
POPLAR AVENUE**

- Ground Floor Maisonette • Spacious Lounge • Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms • Large Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing
- Energy Rating 'D'
- Off Road Parking • Pleasant Rear Gardens

£74,950 NO UPWARD CHAIN

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*VAT free offer on Swift range: Swift 1.2 SZ2 3dr available from £8,999, including customer saving of £1,800 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr A/T available at £12,257 including customer saving of £2,452 which is equivalent to the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £10,799 (SZ2 3dr) and £14,709 (SZ4 5dr A/T). VAT free offer excludes Swift Sport, Swift Sport SZ-R and Swift Attitude. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st July 2013 and 30th September 2013 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.

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NA56VGU	Ford Focus ST-3 2.5 3 Door Hatchback, White, 63,000 miles.....	£6995	KP08VDA	Citroen C4 Sx 1.6 5 Door Hatch Red 41,000 miles.....	£3995
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YX11POH	Peugeot 3008 Active Hdi 1.6 Diesel 5 Door Hatchback Silver 12,000 miles.....	£9995	DU56EBK	Vauxhall Agila Enjoy 1.2 MPV Green 42,000 miles.....	£2995
BK58DYH	Toyota Yaris Tr 998 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 5 Door Hatch Silver 40,000 miles.....	£5695	EX08LVU	Volvo V50 S D 2.0 Diesel Manual Estate Blue 59,000 miles.....	£7695
KM10AZW	Suzuki Swift Sz4 1328 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 5 Door Hatch White 35,000 miles.....	£6495	DN10HZW	Vauxhall Corsa Sxi 1.4 3 Door Hatch Silver 21,000 miles.....	£6395
BN13ASV	Suzuki Swift Sz3 (Bluetooth) 1.2 5 Door Hatch Silky Silver Metallic 4,000 miles.....	£8995			

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Motoring



The SX4 S-Cross will be built at Suzuki's Magyar production centre in Hungary

Suzuki S-Cross a clear winner

IT has only been a few months since the new SX4 S-Cross was unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show and its key features speak a clear language: Suzuki once again shines as a true expert in the field of crossover and four wheel drive cars.

SX4 S-Cross is the latest of Suzuki's world strategic models and makes strong statements in styling, impact safety, performance, handling as well as offering low fuel consumption and low emissions.

Striking crossover styling gives a remarkable, bold and sporty look. The distinctive design offers ample room for passengers and luggage and the world's first double sliding panoramic glass sunroof has the largest opening area in this category. Next-generation

four wheel drive technology with the internationally acclaimed handling of the Swift, and cutting edge active and passive safety features leave no room for doubt: The new SX4 S-Cross is far more than just a crossover vehicle – it's the perfect fusion of family-friendliness and safety, performance and emotion.

Developing

When Suzuki's designers and engineers began developing the SX4 S-Cross they realised they needed to "think bigger" to be able to respond to customer expectations with regard to crossovers in Europe and other parts of the world.

Suzuki created the new SX4 S-Cross by combining its compact car know-how with technologies honed for sport utility vehicles. As a result of focusing on giving the new S-Cross distinctive crossover styling, class leading space for passengers and luggage, next-gen-

eration 4WD performance and one of the lowest CO2 emissions in the segment, it achieves a remarkable combination of styling, utility, safety, performance and fuel economy. It is a model which can offer great driving enjoyment and versatile family usage to many more people in a wide range of situations.

Suzuki will build the new model at the Magyar Suzuki plant in Hungary; Magyar Suzuki plays an important role as Suzuki's European production centre and the launch of the new model will mark the start of an expansion programme in which it will extend its exports to more countries.

A range of eight exterior colours will be available for the UK market including a new option – Crystal Lime Metallic.

The new SX4 S-Cross goes on sale on October 1 with prices starting at £14,999 for the SZ3 1.6-Litre petrol.

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JOSEPH 40 tall, GSOH, seeks female, 26-48 for fun and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394103

MARK 45 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, slim, likes sports, cinema, meals out, seeking loving, caring female to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406737

COLIN 5ft 8ins, dark hair, brown eyes, likes pubs, walks, DVDs, holidays, seeks nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406677

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DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372

38YR old farm worker, medium build, seeks female of similar age for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406331

ATTRACTIVE tall, professional male, GSOH, easy going, likes sport, socialising, seeks female for fun and live life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406317

46YR old stocky male, no ties, shaved head, likes walks, meals out, motor bikes, seeking female for relationship, are you the one? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406291

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Position at the top of table is improved

**Staffs Club Div 2
Tamworth 214-4
Rushall 1st XI 215-2
Rushall win by 8 wkts**
RUSHALL strengthened their position at the top with a comfortable victory.

Rushall won the toss and invited Tamworth to bat and they posted a respectable 214.

The Rushall openers were soon on top of the Tamworth bowlers as Andy Clayton and Andy Beech put on a century opening stand.

Clayton departed first for 56, leaving Beech (93 no) to see Rushall home to an eight wicket victory with five overs to spare.

**Staffs Club Div 3
Rushall 3rd XI 138
Wombourne 139-3**
Wombourne win by 7 wkts

Rushall put up a spirited fight despite travelling to Wombourne with just eight players.

Wombourne won the toss and invited Rushall to bat first on a damp green track.

Some stoic early defiance by Nick Colclough saw Rushall see off the opening bowlers. The arrival of veteran Gary Reeves (31) gave some impetus to the Rushall innings, this then allowed John Pritchard (47 no) to hit some big blows as Rushall finished on 138.

With just eight fielders Rushall made Wombourne work hard for their victory.

Two early wickets for Paul Hopkinson (3-49) put Wombourne on the back foot, but excellent stroke play by Mathews (64 no) and some defiant defence by Jay Green (21) saw Wombourne home.

Blox enjoy pre-season final victory

BLOXWICH Rugby Club emerged victorious in the annual pre-season tournament hosted by Birmingham Barbarians at their Moor Lane base in Perry Barr.

The competition featured eight rugby union teams with Bloxwich and Claverdon playing out an exciting final after seeing off Aldridge and Aston Old Edwardians in their respective semi-finals.

The Barbarians triumphed in the Plate Final with a 5-0 victory over Yardley & District thanks to a last gasp try from skipper Roy Fisher.

Anyone from the Great Barr, Kingstanding and Perry Barr areas interested in taking up rugby union will be made very welcome at the Barbarians. For more details visit www.bhambarbarians.co.uk or call Dave Lawley on 07745057936.

Wanderers take match

**Wyrley 2
Warstones Wanderers 3**
WARSTONES got their first three points of the season at the second attempt.

Playing against a very strong wind in the first half Warstones were 2-1 up at the break. Theo Brown's shot from the edge of the area made it 1-0. A spirited Wyrley side equalised.

Warstones regained the lead when home keeper James Goddard misread an inswinging corner which left Tyrell Simpson with the easiest of tap ins. The goal of the game was scored by Adam Roberts after the restart.

On 60 mins Warley put a neat shot into the bottom corner.

McDonald wants to push to Premiership



New signing – McDonald

KEVIN MCDONALD says he joined Wolves for the challenge of taking them back to the Premier League.

The 24-year-old midfielder's move from Sheffield United on a three-year deal went through last week after a tense six days that included a stringent medical.

McDonald's decision hasn't gone down well in Sheffield, where fans are in uproar at the exit of their star player, who is regarded as the best midfielder in League One.

The Blades were prepared to increase McDonald's pay to persuade him to stay at Bramall Lane.

But even though Wolves offered

Wolves

him more money, the Scot agonised over his decision before deciding the chance to help them back to the big time that he last tasted in 2009-10 with Burnley was too good to turn down.

"It was a tough decision and it's been going on for five days now," said McDonald.

"It was tough to say goodbye, but I think this is the right step and hopefully I can kick on."

"Wolves is such a big club and speaks for itself – only a couple of

years ago they were in the Premier League. "The new gaffer wants to get the club back there as soon as possible and I'm excited to be part of something here."

"I met the gaffer and he's stayed in touch and told me what he wants to do here and I've taken it all on board."

McDonald has a reputation as a playmaker with a fierce shot in both feet.

"I like to get on the ball and pass it around and hopefully can add a few goals this season," he said.

But he is under no illusions of the difficulty of getting promoted.

"For the team it's all about trying to get promoted," he said. "But League One is a tough league as I know from playing at Sheffield United for two years."

"There's a good squad here with some talented players and we've certainly got the potential to get promoted."

"It's definitely something we should be aiming for."

McDonald knows striker Leigh Griffiths from Scotland Under-21s, while he has played under former Wolves midfielder Alex Rae twice – at Dundee and on loan at Notts County.

Wood recover from an early blow to progress

**FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round.
Walsall Wood 4 Continental Star 1**

WOOD came back from the shock of conceding a second minute goal to eventually run out comfortable winners to progress to an away tie on Saturday week at Leek Town.

Wood in the end deserved to win and finally open their account for the season. But it couldn't have started worse for them as slick Star put them under pressure from the off.

After only two minutes an untidy clearance out of defence went straight to Rikardo Reid on the edge of the centre circle.

He raced through two ineffectual tackles and fired into the roof of the net.

The new look Wood side started to make inroads to the Star box and it came as no surprise when they equalised.

Andre Gonzales played a neat 1-2 down the right with Samson Alalade before rolling a ball across the face of the box to Harry Harris to calmly slot home.

Gusting

From a corner the ball was held up in the gusting wind, skipper Lee Stretton chesting the ball home to put Wood in front.

A minute later neat play on the left of the box by Ahmet Bilgimer saw him cut back outside his marker and his ball across the face of the box saw Harris' first time shot charged down.

It was all Wood at this stage and Ashfall hit a first time effort just wide and then on 44 minutes a vicious cross shot by Harris was somehow kept out by Ellis and his defenders.

Wood started the second half in the same way, Jones a feeding Ashfall down the left and his low cross was hit first time by Bilgimer, forcing Ellis into another superb full length save. On 51 minutes Ashfall inter-

Walsall Wood

cepted the ball in midfield, ran on and fired just too high.

A rare Star attack on 65 minutes saw Daniel Holgate race onto a ball over the top, keeper Dale Faultless racing from his box to make a tackle before Stretton cleared the danger.

On 75 minutes another slide-rule ball from Jones wide left put Ashfall clear. He ran past his marker and his ball across the face of the six-yard box was neatly tucked away by Bilgimer to give him the goal his performance deserved.

Reid raced on to a ball over the top as Star strived to get a goal back, but he could only shoot straight at the rapidly advancing Faultless.

Wood had the last word on 89 minutes, Alalade picking the ball up on halfway, racing away from his marker into the right of the box before tucking the ball past the advancing Ellis to open his account for the club.

Wood were given an early wake up call, but in the end ran out worthy winners and look forward to a trip to the Staffordshire Moorlands on Saturday, August 31.

In the meantime it's a league trip to Highgate United on Saturday before they take on near neighbours Heath Hayes on Bank Holiday Monday, kick off at 3pm.

Golden girl Ellie grabs a hat-trick of gongs



Walsall swimming sensation Ellie Simmonds has been celebrating a hat-trick of gold medals at the IPC World Championships. The 18-year-old put in a vintage performance to claim victory in the 100m freestyle on the final day in Montreal, adding to last week's wins in the 200m individual medley and 400m freestyle and bronze in the 60m freestyle. Ellie, pictured left with bronze medallist Tanja Groepper, from Germany, said: "I was quite nervous going into that final. I thought it was going to be tough but I was excited and thankfully I managed to touch first."

Seal of approval for development programme

WALSALL Golf Club has launched a five-step programme to help would-be golfers progress from beginner to club member.

Now the efforts of the club, at The Broadway, have earned it national recognition for its beginner and child-friendly approach with the award of GolfMark, an official seal of approval for facilities which play an important role in the development of the game.

The club hosts regular taster sessions for both adults and juniors, including during Midlands Golf Week when it also held a ladies only event and a family fun day.

From this, those taking part are encouraged to join further group coaching sessions with the club's PGA professionals or even take up the option of individual lessons to develop their golfing skills further.

The club now has a First Membership cat-

egory, which allows people to enjoy 25 rounds of golf at a course designed by the famous Dr Alistair Mackenzie, who also pioneered the layout of Augusta, home of the US Masters.

The offer includes a further five lessons with a PGA team led by long-serving head professional Richard Lambert and assistants Dan Higgs and Ian Proverbs.

The final stepping stone leads into full club membership with social events aiming to bring new and old members together.

Walsall also has an active junior section – with three of the club's former juniors winning the English Champion Club competition in 2012.

Lewis Pearce and the Sheridan-Mills brothers, Freddie and Henry, all came through the club's junior ranks. They went on to represent England in the European

Championships, finishing eighth in Cyprus. The club holds regular taster sessions for youngsters as well as coaching and competitions at the weekends or during the school holidays.

They are now building new links with local schools and community groups.

Highlight

The club also caters for students with special membership offers and attended the Wolverhampton University open day to highlight what it has to offer to those studying in the area.

Club administrator Jayne Nightingale said: "We are delighted the efforts of every one of the club have been acknowledged by the award of GolfMark, which shows that we have the right duty of care and child protection policies in place which make Walsall

Golf Club a safe and friendly environment in which to enjoy the many benefits of playing golf."

"As well as the expert coaching available through our team of PGA professionals, we like to offer a friendly welcome to newcomers to the sport and take a very proactive approach to helping new faces mix with existing members so that they very quickly feel at home and part of the club's life."

Sean Hammill, regional development officer for England Golf said: "Walsall is an excellent example of a club taking a proactive approach to developing a new generation of golfers and putting the emphasis on creating a positive and friendly atmosphere in which newcomers can get to grips with the skills needed to play."

For more details call 01922 613512 or visit www.walsallgolfclub.co.uk

Club nets award for its tennis provision

CHELSLYN Hay Tennis Club has been recognised as a Beacon Status Club by the Lawn Tennis Association.

This identifies the club as one of the few in Staffordshire as providing 'quality tennis provision which is affordable and accessible to the local community'.

To celebrate, the club is offering any new players the opportunity to take part in their first tennis session for free (usually £3) on Mondays and Wednesdays. Times are 5.45 to 6.45pm for five-to-11-year-olds and from 6.45-8pm for 11-plus. Adult tennis mix-in sessions take place from 6-8pm on Thursdays.

The club has a membership of more than 120 and in its inaugural year it has exceeded expectations by successfully participating in the Staffordshire Junior League and becoming Walsall & District Senior Mens League Champions.

This is in addition to organising fortnightly open junior tournaments.

The club is ranked in the top five in Staffordshire for the amount of regularly competing juniors who have played in six Lawn Tennis Association recorded matches.

Call Chris Perrin on 07969 829318 or email chelslynhaytennis@live.com

Pics start the season with a win

**Rushall Olympic 1
Skelmersdale 0**

RUSHALL Olympic kicked off the 2013/2014 season with a hard-fought victory against newly promoted, Skelmersdale United.

They have goalkeeper Lewis Solly to thank for keeping the visitors at bay, especially in the first half.

Debutant Solly denied the visitors on at least four occasions with some top class saves.

When he was finally beaten Skelmersdale striker Gary Burnett missed a sitter, when faced with an open goal, he failed to connect with the ball and the chance was gone.

Two minutes before the break the Pics went in front.

Dave Walker was brought down in the penalty area and up stepped Gavin Cairnes to score from the spot.

Rushall enjoyed more of the play in the second half and Walker went close when his flick hit the top of the bar and Dele Adebola was through but Hibbert saved.

As the game wore on the visitors pressed for an equaliser and Solly did well to tip Kevin Leadbetter's inswinging corner away.

Heath is off on loan deal

YOUNG Walsall midfielder Jake Heath has sealed a one-month loan move to Worcester City.

The youngster was one of three former youth team players to sign deals with the Saddlers over the summer and says he can't wait to taste first-team action with Worcester.

"I'm really looking forward to the opportunity of getting some competitive action under my belt," said Heath.

"I know that it is a physical league, but the experience will only benefit me."

"It will be my first taste of senior action, so it's a chance for me to make my mark."

SPORT

High hopes
McDonald wants
to take team up
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Golden girl
Champion Ellie
in medal hat-trick
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Two late goals see Lockmen suffer loss

**Cradley Town 2
Willenhall Town 0**

AFTER dominating against a poor side for the majority of the game, Willenhall conceded two late goals to go down to a disappointing defeat.

Jamel Fuller had the first effort of the day as he hit the side netting for the visitors on 12 minutes after forcing the game's first corner.

Former Willenhall keeper Matt Jones then made several good saves, first to deny Jake Morgan's header, then to deny an Eddie Wilson free-kick, before Morgan saw his shot headed off the line.

The home team finally threatened when another ex-Lockman Chris Bladen brought a stunning save out of Jake Woodhouse, acrobatically tipping a fierce effort around the post.

The Lockmen made a sluggish start to the second-half but were unlucky not to break the deadlock when Wilson delivered another free-kick into the box and Jordan Siviter saw his header crash down off the underside of the bar, hit the keeper and then be scrambled into the grateful arms of Jones.

Two goals in the final ten minutes sealed their fate as a bad mistake gave a clear path to goal to Ammers' sub James Welinitschuk and he rounded Woodhouse before rolling the ball home before Bladen sunk his former club with a free header from an inpoint cross four minutes from time.

Boost over Lalk's injury

WALSALL have been boosted by the news Milan Lalkovic's injury is not serious and the striker should be fit for Saturday's trip to Brentford.

Lalkovic missed the 1-1 draw with Notts County with a hamstring problem aggravated on international duty with the Slovakia under-21s last week.

But Saddlers boss Dean Smith, who was forced to change his starting line-up for the first time this season, has revealed the Chelsea loanee was only out as a precaution and will be given time this week to recover.

Wolves and Walsall will face-off in the opening round of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

The game will take place at Molineux in the week beginning September 2.

Gethin's title fight scrapped by injury

by Craig Birch

WALSALL'S Martin Gethin has had his proposed British lightweight title fight against Anthony Crolla scrapped through injury.

The British Boxing Board of Control have revealed the fight is off due to champion Gethin being hurt and will next address the title at their meeting next month.

The board had put Gethin versus Crolla out to purse bids for August 14, with the contest to take place by December.

Crolla scored an upset win over Gavin Rees in July, with Derry Mathews claiming the Commonwealth lightweight belt with a stunning one-punch knockout of Tommy Coyle the same night. Meanwhile, Cradley's

Chris Male has pulled out of his British title eliminator with Coventry's Troy James at Dudley's the Venue next month with a calf injury.

The two former challengers to the English crown, at featherweight and super feather respectively, had been due to meet on Saturday September 14.

But James will still box a 10-round on the bill for a Masters title, having already started his training camp for the bill in anticipation of the contest. For Male, it's the

latest in a catalogue of injuries that have cost him big fights since turning pro in 2008 with a badly broken hand, torn rotator cuff and now calf problems.

He said: "It's really disappointing I was sparring Steven Pearce and we came out of an exchange and I just landed awkwardly. I couldn't walk for three days."

James is equally disappointed it won't be Male in the other corner, as his chance to get a stop closer to the British title has gone with the opponent.

He said: "My focus has always been on a British title shot. I have been working towards Male, so it's disappointing that that

fight is off. But all I can do is go out there and pick up a Masters belt." Two of Male's stable-mates from Shaun Cooper's gym in Brierley Hall still appear on a three-fight under-card which includes traveller Lance Brooks, trained by Dudley's Paul Gough.

Tickets are £55 to include a three-course meal. VIP ringside tables of 10 are available at £100 per person to include the meal and complimentary bottles of wine.

British lightweight champion Martin Gethin, and former British welterweight title holder Young Mutley will mingle with guests in the VIP section. Call either 07780 505 743 or 07581 131 745.

Villa have spirit to claim win

**Pelsall Villa 4
Coventry Copswood 3**

PELSALL Villa secured their first victory of the season after beating Coventry Copswood 4-3.

A brace from Ben Lund plus further strikes from Ash Lawley and Richard Taundry saw Craig Timmins' side battle out a deserved three points.

"It was a very positive performance," said Timmins. "Our attitude was spot-on and the lads displayed plenty of endeavour, commitment and, importantly, discipline."

"We were in control for long periods of the game but were still made to work extremely hard to get the win."

"Ben Lund opened the scoring for us, but our opponents turned the scoreline around to go in front, however, we refused to let our heads drop, even after going 3-2 up and then being pegged back once again."

"Richard Taundry found the net for the winner and I have to say that his attitude and whole approach to the game has been absolutely first-class since he has been with us. He's a real credit to professional football."

"Things are looking really positive."

Sawyers happy to be versatile

ROMAINE SAWYERS said he's happy to remain Walsall's 'Mr Versatile' as he makes his case for a regular starting place.

The 21-year-old forward is in contention for Saturday's trip to Brentford.

"Personally I feel my best position is just behind the strikers," he said. "But if the gaffer asks me to do something else, then I'm more than happy to do that."

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DRAWING COMFORT FROM UNBEATEN RUN

Walsall 1 Notts County 1
A POINT gained or two dropped? That was the big question being asked as Notts County ended the Saddlers' perfect start to the season.

Dean Smith's side do remain unbeaten, though, thanks in large part to a hotly-disputed linesman's flag in the second minute of stoppage time.

The offside flag cancelled out what would have been Yoann Arquin's match-winner for the visitors.

As so often in these situations, both managers saw it slightly differently.

Smith was confident, having watched the incident back on television, that the right call had been made.

But after viewing the same pictures, opposite number Chris Kiwomya felt his side were the victims of a bad decision.

Disappointed

It wasn't the only call to rile the visiting manager, though both managers seemed disappointed with just a point at the end.

Smith pointed to three golden chances squandered after Romaine Sawyers' brilliant strike – his first in senior football – put them ahead five minutes into the second half.

With both sides having to settle for a draw, it at least maintained the Saddlers' fine start to the campaign.

There is a definite sense that Smith's men are yet to submit a complete performance and they face their sternest test so far this weekend when they head to Brentford for a meeting with former striker Will Grigg.

When their passing game is at its peak, it is a pleasure to watch, but too often on

Saddlers

Saturday moves broke down. In the first half the Saddlers were also guilty of lacking adventure in attack.

The partnership of Sawyers and Craig Westgarth, two forwards who both like to drop back into midfield, took time to gel with big gaps often opening up between the midfield and attack.

Ashley Hemmings had the first shot on target but was denied by visiting keeper Bartosz Bialkowski and the stalemate was only preserved until half-time thanks to the reflexes of Richard O'Donnell.

The keeper had already kept out Joss Labadie's fierce free-kick in impressive fashion when he was called on again to thwart the lively Callum McGregor with a sharp save down to his right.

The hosts took the lead within five minutes of the restart thanks to Sawyers.

The 21-year-old picked up the ball just inside the opposing half and advanced unchallenged to around 25 yards out, where he crafted a fine shot past Bialkowski.

The Saddlers could not find the second and, with County remaining a threat, Arquin nodded them level from Alan Sheehan's cross.



Romaine Sawyers races towards goal before firing Walsall into the lead against Notts County

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